D-ERAS!
STORY AND ART
TOMOYA HARUNO
5

MENTS
ディーふらぐ!
Tomoya Haruno
Presents
5

D-FRAG!

STUPID ANIKI.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE FORGOT HIS LUNCH.
Lunch break's almost over!
AH.
HM?
WHAM

Chapter 29
The Legendarily Amazing Takao-sempai!

BUT, UM, THEY FELT REALLY NICE! SOFT BUT FIRM. I MEAN IT! YOUR BOOBS--
MRFF?!
SWAP
SHUT THE--I MEAN, LET'S USE OUR INDOOR VOICES, OKAY?
Ooh, firm?
!!

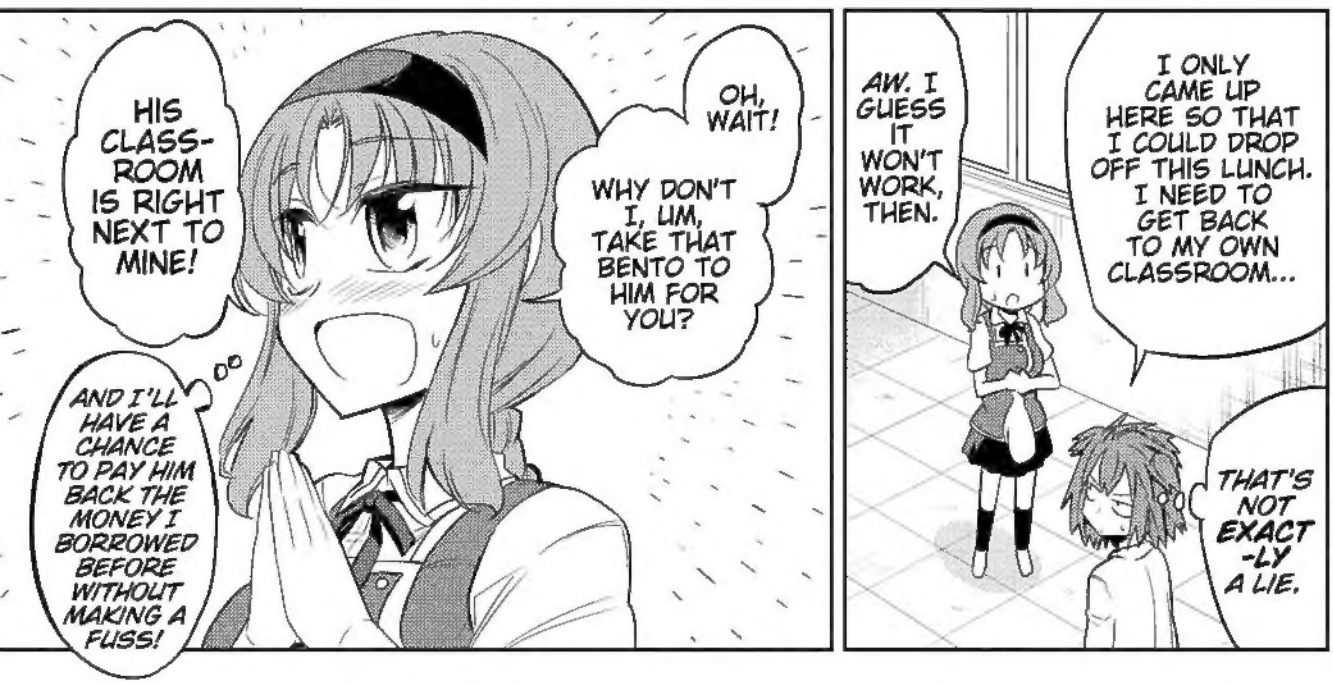
I-I'M SORRY. I JUST GOT SO FLUSTERED I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH! I'M NOT THAT SCARY.
WHY DOES THIS KIND OF THING ALWAYS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?
THIS IS ALL MY DUMB BROTHER'S FAULT!

JEEZ, SHE SCARES THE LIVING CRAP OUT OF ME! SERIOUSLY, WHO CAN FACE DOWN THE LEGENDARILY AMAZING TAKAO-SEMPAI?!
BUT NOW THAT I TAKE A GOOD LOOK, SHE DOESN'T REALLY SEEM ALL THAT BAD. SHE'S EVEN KINDA CUTE...
SEE? I'M NOT SCARY AT ALL!
AH! NO! I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN!
I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!!
UH, A-ANYWAY, SEE YA.
AH!
Bye, Sempai.

ANNND YOU'RE OUT!!
Lift
UM...
IF YOU'RE NOT BUSY, WHY DON'T WE EAT LUNCH TOGETHER?
.....
WHAT? WELL, UH...!
And why do I care?
WAIT, WHY THE HECK WOULD YOU WANT TO EAT LUNCH WITH ME?
NOW I'M SUSPICIOUS FOR REAL! WHAT'S SHE GONNA DO TO ME?!
How dare you grab my boobs! GRRRAW!
Noooo!!
ULTERIOR MOTIVES?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
I DON'T HAVE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVES! I MEAN IT!
That's all!
BECAUSE WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT AND I WANT US TO BE FRIENDS!

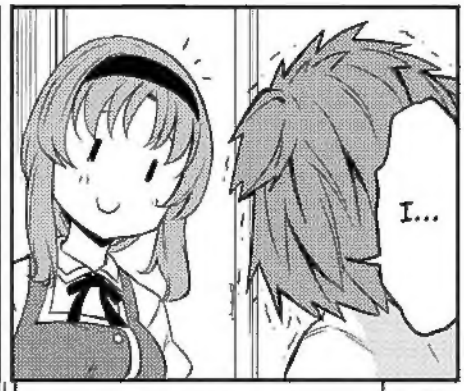
SORRY, NO CAN DO. I'VE GOTTA DELIVER THIS BENTO TO MY BROTHER BEFORE LUNCH BREAK ENDS.
THANK GOD MY STUPID BROTHER FORGOT HIS LUNCH AT HOME! NOW I JUST HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

OH. WELL, THEN HOW ABOUT WE INVITE YOUR BROTHER AND ALL THREE OF US CAN EAT T-T-TOGETHER?
TOTALLY STUFF
WHY THE HECK WOULD WE DO THAT?!
UHH, I KINDA DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN EATING WITH MY BROTHER. IT'D BE EMBARRASSING.
Does she want revenge on both of us?!


I ONLY CAME UP HERE SO THAT I COULD DROP OFF THIS LUNCH. I NEED TO GET BACK TO MY OWN CLASSROOM...
AW. I GUESS IT WON'T WORK, THEN.
THAT'S NOT EXACT-LY A LIE.
OH, WAIT!
WHY DON'T I, UM, TAKE THAT BENTO TO HIM FOR YOU?
HIS CLASSROOM IS RIGHT NEXT TO MINE!
AND I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO PAY HIM BACK THE MONEY I BORROWED BEFORE WITHOUT MAKING A FUSS!

OH NO...!
RECOGNIZE THIS BENTO BOX?
I STOLE IT FROM YOUR PRECIOUS BABY SISTER.
I MIGHT HAVE ADDED A SPECIAL INGREDIENT OF MY OWN. MWAH HA HA!
NOW EAT IT UP. EAT EVERY LAST BITE. OH, BUT YOU CAN'T USE YOUR HANDS.
DO IT! I, THE AMAZING TAKAO-SEMPAI, AM OFFERING TO HELP YOUR POOR LITTLE LOSER SELF! YOUR ONLY TALENT IS HAVING ROCK-HARD HAIR, AFTER ALL!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! ONIICHAN, HELP ME!
sob...
WHA--?!

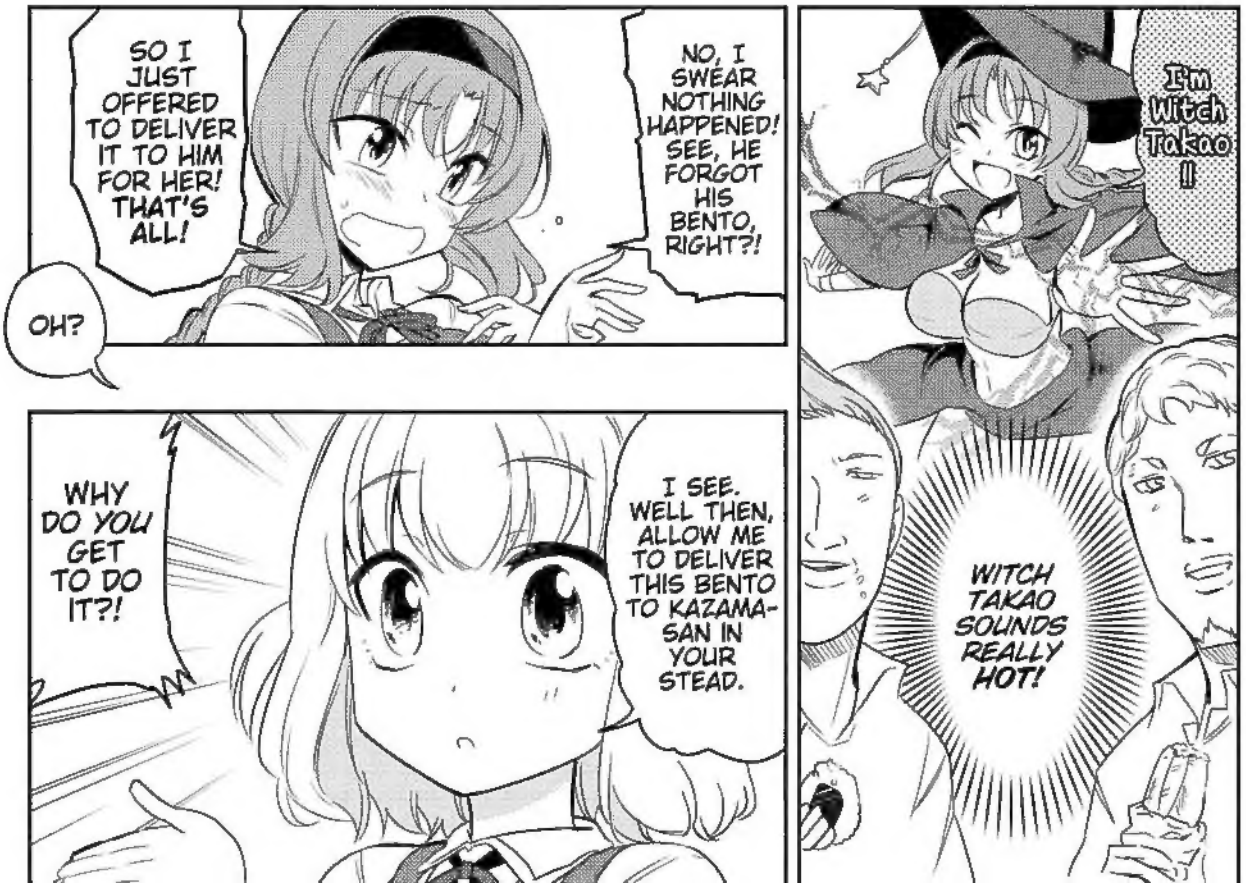

I...

HEY NOW, TAKAO! STOP IT! DON'T PICK ON POOR LITTLE MISS SISTER!
WAVE WAVE
WHAT?! N-NO! I SWEAR IT WASN'T ...

OH MY GOSH, WHAT'S WRONG?! ARE YOU OKAY?!
ONII...
HMM?

GULP
LITTLE MISS SISTER IS A TOUGH LITTLE GIRL. WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER TO MAKE HER SO SCARED?
I-I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!
.....
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
ME ...?

.....
WHICH TAKAO-SAN?! WITCH TAKAO-SAN!
H-HEY! STOP CALLING ME A WITCH!
THEN WHICH TAKAO-SAN WAS IT?! WHICH? WHICH?!
ACK!
IF IT WASN'T YOU, TAKAO-SAN...


OH?
SO I JUST OFFERED TO DELIVER IT TO HIM FOR HER! THAT'S ALL!
NO, I SWEAR NOTHING HAPPENED! SEE, HE FORGOT HIS BENTO, RIGHT?!
I'm Witch Takao !!
WITCH TAKAO SOUNDS REALLY HOT!
WHY DO YOU GET TO DO IT?!
I SEE. WELL THEN, ALLOW ME TO DELIVER THIS BENTO TO KAZAMA-SAN IN YOUR STEAD.

AS YOU WISH. I WILL DELIVER THIS BENTO TO KAZAMA-SAN IMMEDIATELY.
WAIT A MINUTE!!
HUH? WHY HER?! I ASKED FIRST!
OOO-OKAY... THEN I GUESS...
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DELIVER IT, SHIBASAKI-SEMPAI.

W-WELL, YEAH, BUT...
YANK
BUT LITTLE MISS SISTER SAID I COULD DO IT!
YANK
NO WAY! I WAS FIRST IN LINE!

WHA?!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!
TAKAO-SAN, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SNEAK A TASTE OF THE BENTO LITTLE MISS SISTER MADE THAT BADLY?!
YANK
JUST LET ME DO IT! PLEASE!

NO! I'M NEVER GOING TO LET YOU WIN--
SHOVE
しよぼん
FINE. HERE. TAKE IT.
I'M TAKING IT TO HIM AND THAT'S THAT!!

BWOINGING
THE SPRING RELEASES.
ROKA PUSHING HARDER.
TAKAO PULLING HARD.
SQUIIISH...
FOOSH
ZOOM
FWOOOOOOO

BAAAAAM
GOOD GIRL. SHE'S GROWING UP SO FAST!
SURE DID, DAD! IT CAME FROM JAPAN!
DID YOU FEEL THAT, SON?
OH MY GOSH, I'M SO SORRY! I'M SO, SO, SO, SO, SOOOO SORRY!!
8 meters that way.
OH NO! THE BENTO LITTLE MISS SISTER MADE!
"AT PEACE"? ARE YOU DYING OR SOME-THING?
MAN, TAKAO REALLY IS AMAZ-ING.
NO, IT'S OKAY. IN FACT, I FEEL STRANGELY AT PEACE...

I'D GIVE HIM MY LUNCH IF I COULD, BUT I FORGOT MINE AT HOME THIS MORNING...
YOU FORGOT TOO?!
BUT WE TOTALLY RUINED THE LUNCH YOU MADE... AND YOUR BROTHER'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE TICKED OFF...
.....
WHAT-EVER, IT'S OKAY. I'M SURE HE'LL FIND SOME-THING ELSE TO EAT.

IS SHE HONESTLY GIVING THIS TO ME? MAYBE SHE'S NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL...
Oh, uh, thanks, I guess.
DO YOU TRULY THINK A HEALTHY, GROWING BOY LIKE HIM WILL BE SATISFIED WITH THAT MERE HUNK OF SUGARY BREAD?
HERE. I BOUGHT THIS BREAD FOR LUNCH, BUT I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT TO HIM INSTEAD.
shake-
HUH ?!

W-WE COULD GIVE HIM THIS "ONEECHAN LOVE-LOVE" BENTO THAT MY OWN LITTLE SISTER MADE FOR ME...
ROKA-SEMPAI ?!
OH MY GOSH, YOU'D DO THAT?
NAY! I SAY HE WILL NOT!
BUT WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?!

2-B
.....
SHE'S LATE.

HEY! YOU'RE JUST OFFERING PARSLEY! MY LITTLE SISTER MAY NOT BE A GREAT COOK, BUT AT LEAST HER STUFF'S EDIBLE!
Parsley
Parsley
Parsley
WE'RE TOTALLY UP FOR TRADING WITH YOU ONCE YOU GET IT!

HUH?
KAZAMA-SAN, IS YOUR SISTER STILL NOT HERE WITH YOUR LUNCH?

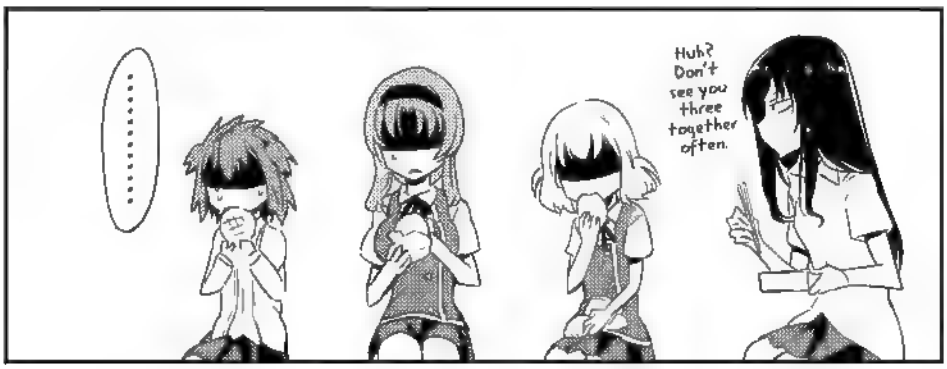
WAIT, WHY ARE THOSE TWO WITH YOU?!
UHHH... HERE.

ANIKI...
HM?

?
?
He had three pretty girls deliver his lunch!
Yeah, but then they ran away in terror...
BWUH?! WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT ...?!
ZOOM
BYE !!
Stay back! Shoo!
THMP
AH WELL. LUNCH IS ALMOST OVER. I'D BETTER EAT QUICKLY!
I didn't know we had a bento box that looked like this
And money?
Bread? Why bread?
Pop
Pop

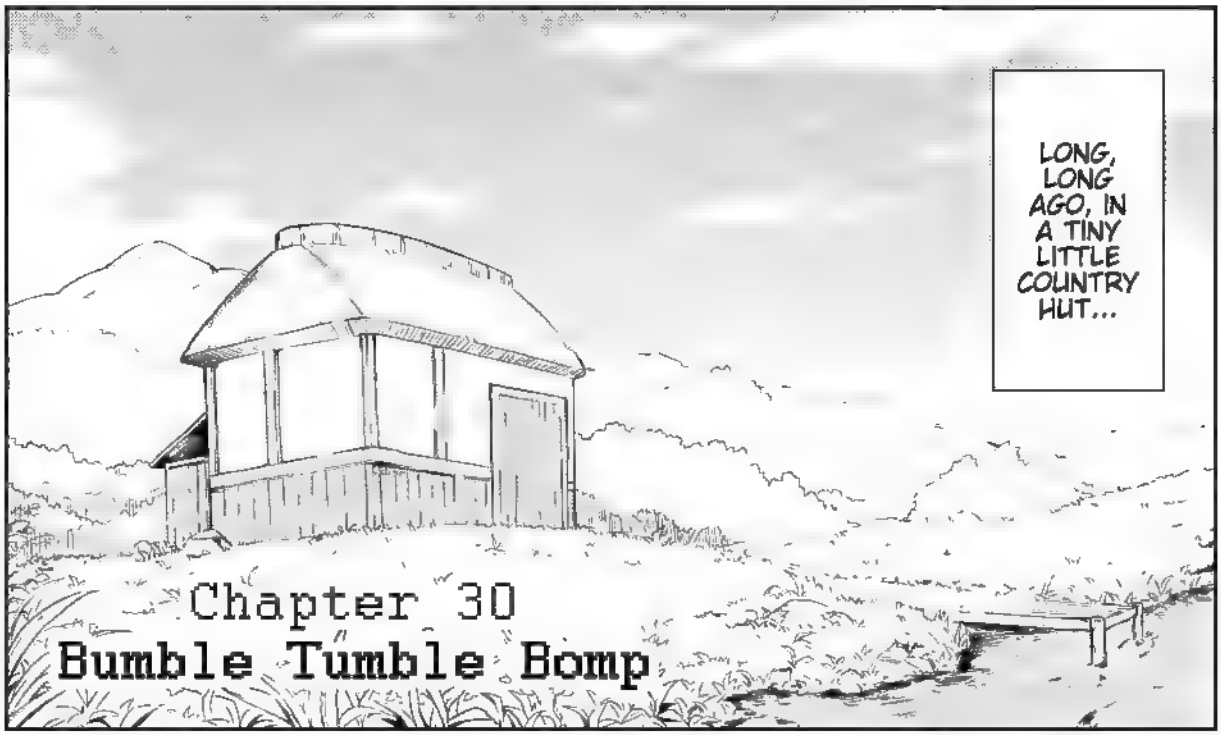
WHAAAA?! "ONEE-CHAN?!" WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?!
ALL MY LOVE ONEECHAN

When we're at home call me "Oneechan"
Ah-ah!
YOU DUMB-ASSES DON'T SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT, DO YOU?!
WHAT?! SO KAZAMA-KUN'S MORE LIKE A BIG SISTER AT HOME?!


.....
Huh? Don't see you three together often.

Kazama-san, may I please have my bento box back now?
TP TP TP
You've got a lot of guts asking for this back...

D-FRAGMENTS ディーふらぐ！


LONG, LONG AGO, IN A TINY LITTLE COUNTRY HUT...
Chapter 30
Bumble Tumble Bomp

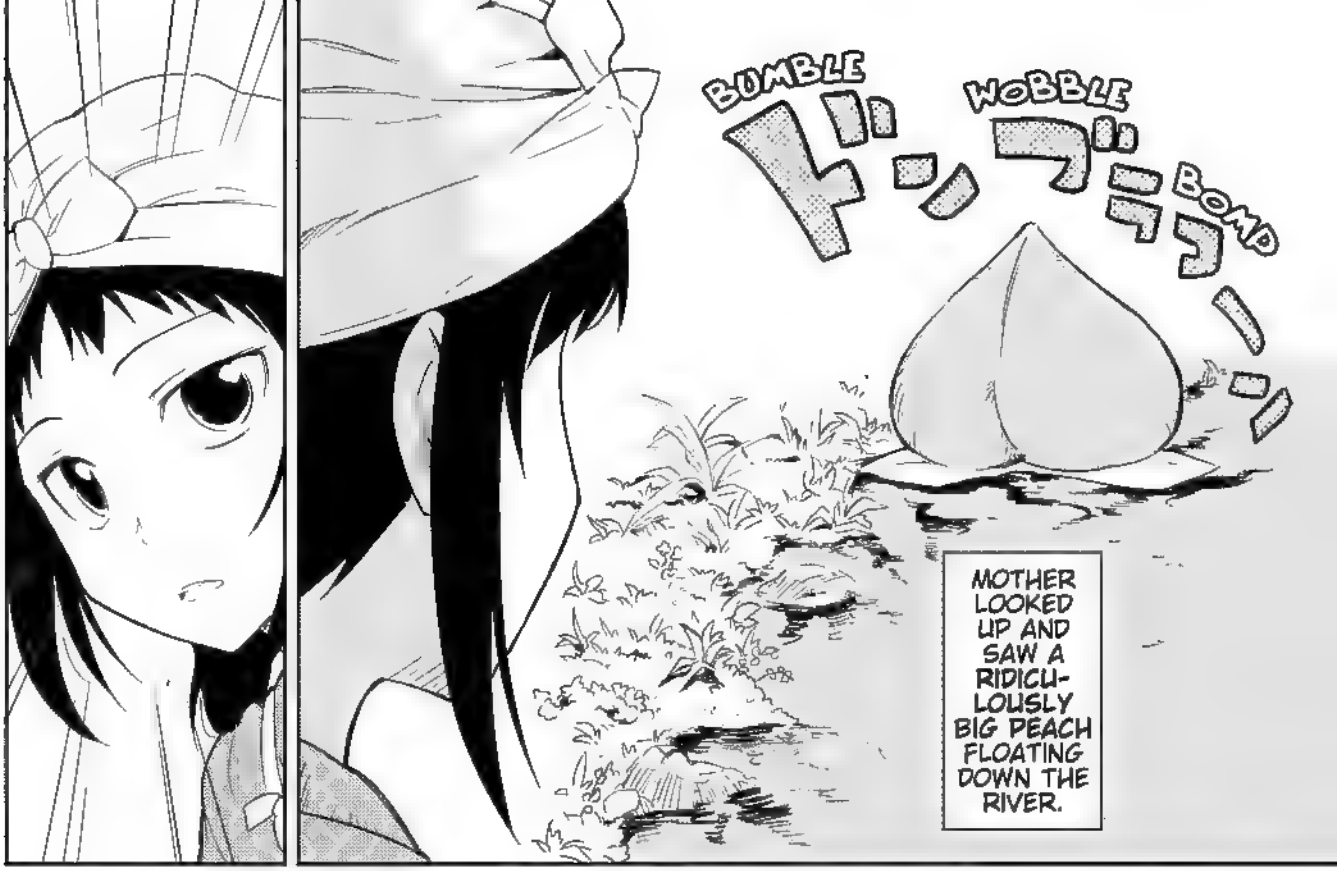
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!

Yawn...
THERE LIVED A MOTHER AND AN ONIICHAN.

AND MOTHER WENT TO WASH THE LAUNDRY IN THE RIVER.
What a pain in the butt.
I'll just dunk 'em in the water and call it good.
!
BUMBLE BOBBLE

AND SO ONIICHAN WENT FORAGING IN THE MOUNTAINS.
OKAY, OKAY! I'M GOING! JUST STOP CALLING ME "ONII-CHAN"!
Who the hell are you, anyway?!

YOU GO OFF AND, UH... FORAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS OR SOMETHING.
HM? WHATEVER. I'M GONNA GO WASH THESE CLOTHES IN THE RIVER.
DRAG DRAG
SERIOUSLY!
DON'T JUST IGNORE MY QUESTION!


BUMBLE
WOBBLE
BOMP
ドンブラーン
MOTHER LOOKED UP AND SAW A RIDICULOUSLY BIG PEACH FLOATING DOWN THE RIVER.

WELL THEN, I GUESS I COULD EITHER CARRY THE PEACH HOME OR DO THE WASH. NOT THAT THE DAY WILL BE A WASH IF I DO NEITHER, BUT, WELL, THE NARRATOR WILL PROBABLY GET PISSED AT ME IF I DON'T FOLLOW THE STORY AND TAKE THE PEACH HOME. OH, AND I TOTALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE THAT "WASH" PUN, IT JUST HAPPENED.
NOW THAT'S ONE BIG PEACH! PICKING IT UP AND DRAGGING IT HOME WOULD BE A CHORE.
SEEING IT, MOTHER THOUGHT ...

IDIOT. REAL PEACHES DON'T GROW THIS LARGE.
NOW WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO WITH IT? A PEACH THIS BIG PROBABLY TASTES BLAND AS HELL.
HUH? THEN WHAT IS IT?
NO, I DID!
SO YEAH. I CARRIED IT HOME.
WHO CARES?! QUIT BABBLING AND GRAB THE DAMN PEACH!

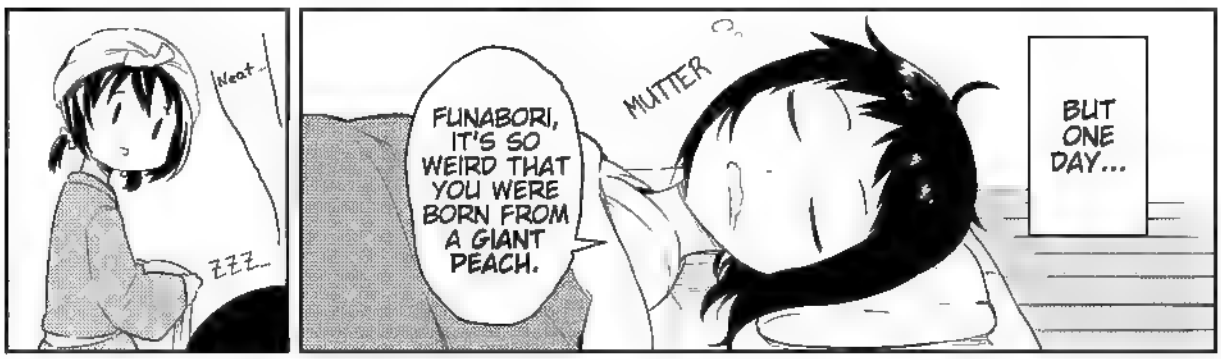
IT'S PROBABLY A MOVIE PROP FROM THE KADOKAWA DAIEI STUDIOS THAT GOT KNOCKED INTO THE RIVER.
(Chofu City)
Tama River
WHAT THE HELL?! DO YOU EVEN GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE STORY'S TIME PERIOD?!
WAAAAAAAAH!
BWAH!
HOLY CRAP! NOW IT'S MAKING NOISE!
YAY!
HUH? ALL YOU WANT IS A FREE LUNCH? AREN'T YOU CURIOUS AT ALL ABOUT THIS GIANT PEACH?!
IF WE RETURN IT TO THEM, MAYBE THEY'LL REWARD US WITH A REAL KADOKAWA DAIEI STUDIOS BENTO LUNCH!
GOD, YOU JUST KNOW THAT ONE OF THOSE "THINGS" HAS TO BE INSIDE IT!
WAAAH! WAAAH!
WHAT, YOU MEAN A BABY? YOU READ TOO MUCH MANGA.
SAYS THE ONE WHO'S OBVIOUSLY WATCHED TOO MANY KADOKAWA MOVIES!!
AMAZING! THEN AGAIN, YOU'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM 'KADOKAWA STUDIOS' SPECIAL EFFECTS DEPARTMENT...
IT'S NOT A MOVIE PROP!

THERE, SEE?! THERE WAS ONE INSIDE!!
WAAAH!
ワギャア
WAAAH!
ワギャア
HUNH.
NOW WHAT DO WE DO? TAKE IT BACK TO KADO-KAWA?
ヨヨヨ?
HRM. GOOD QUES-TION.

FIRST, IT'S A GIRL, SO LET'S NAME HER "FUNABORI."
WHAT, YOU'RE NAMING IT?! AND WHY "FUNA-BORI"?!
WELL, SHE CAME FLOATING DOWN A RIVER, SO I THOUGHT A NAME DEALING WITH THE WATER WOULD BE APPRO-PRIATE.
WHAT ABOUT THE GIANT PEACH SHE CAME OUT OF?! AND YES, "FUNA" MEANS "BOAT," BUT AREN'T THERE BETTER WATER-RELATED NAMES?!

HI THERE! I'M A TRAVELLING MONKEY. CAN I TROUBLE YOU FOR A CUP OF WATER?
SHWAK
AND WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE?! YOU'RE NOT IN THE STORY TILL LATER!!
AND SO THE MOTHER AND SON RAISED FUNABORI.
Why are you still here?

Mother! Oniichan!
Dinner's ready!
Goo-goo.
One bounce!
Two bounce!
AND SHE GREW INTO A KIND, CONSIDERATE YOUNG GIRL.


Neat...
ZZZ...
FUNABORI, IT'S SO WEIRD THAT YOU WERE BORN FROM A GIANT PEACH.
MUTTER
BUT ONE DAY...

OH, DID WE NEVER TELL YOU ABOUT THAT?

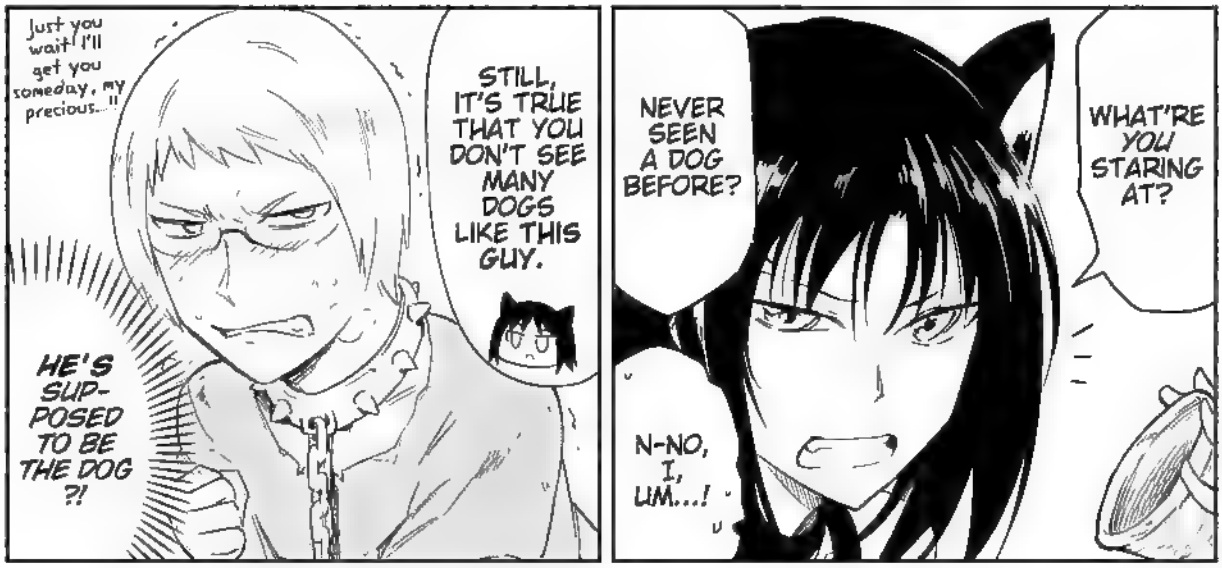
UMM, MAYBE IT WAS FOR A MOVIE?
WHY WOULD ANYBODY PUT ME IN A PEACH?
HUH ?!
WELL, UH, TECHNICALLY YOU ONLY CAME OUT OF A PEACH, SO IT COULD BE SOMEONE JUST PUT YOU IN IT BEFORE-HAND.
ACK!
TREMBLE
A PEACH ?!
SORRY! TAKE A DEEP BREATH, OKAY?!
WHAT ?
MUMBLE
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...

WHAT THE HELL?! WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH FUNA-BORI?!
WAVE WAVE
A PEACH-SHAPED BUTT MEANS WIDE BIRTHING HIPS, RIGHT?

BWAH?! YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND THAT IT'S A COMPLI-MENT!
R-REALLY? GOLLY-GEE, AS A FARMER'S DAUGHTER, THERE AIN'T NO HIGHER PRAISE FOR A GIRL...

Dear Mother and Oniichan,
I gave it a lot of thought and decided you would have one less mouth to feed without me here. I will go out into the world to become a bride. I worry about leaving behind poor Mother, who can barely get out of bed, but...no, it is best this way. When I have found someone who will marry me, I will let you know. I've left behind a few of my homemade cupcakes. Please enjoy them.
AHEM. ANYWAY, NOW THAT FUNABORI KNEW THE TRUTH...
OH MY GOD, FUNABORI, DON'T BE SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN!
AND THE ONLY REASON MOTHER DOESN'T GET OUT OF BED IS BECAUSE SHE'S A LAZY ASS WHO'S CONTENT TO SLEEP HER LIFE AWAY!
FUNA-BORI, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YES. I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME WITH ME, MONKEY-ONEESAN.
WELL, SINCE I ONLY STARTED HANGING AROUND WHEN YOU FIRST SHOWED UP, STAYING BEHIND WITHOUT YOU WOULD FEEL WEIRD.
OH, I SEE!
BESIDES, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRAVEL AROUND AND VISIT ALL OF JAPAN'S HOT SPRINGS!
PLUS, IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU, YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR ONIICHAN WOULD BE REALLY SAD.
.....
RIGHT! I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND FIND A GOOD MAN TO MARRY! THEN MOTHER AND ONIICHAN WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE!
Okay!

IS IT THE KILN?! IS MY KILN NOT GOOD ENOUGH?!
NO, NO, NO! THIS BOWL ISN'T RIGHT EITHER! I DON'T GET IT! I'M USING THE BEST CLAYS IN THE LAND!!
TWITCH
KRISH SMASH
KRASH
!!


Just you wait! I'll get you someday, my precious...!!
STILL, IT'S TRUE THAT YOU DON'T SEE MANY DOGS LIKE THIS GUY.
HE'S SUP-POSED TO BE THE DOG?!
NEVER SEEN A DOG BEFORE?
WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT?
N-NO, I, UM...!

IS SHE A DOG TOO?!
NO OO !!
B-BUT I WAS GOING TO GIVE THESE TO MY FUTURE-IN-LAWS...
BUT YOU CAN HAVE THEM! HERE! JUST DON'T MAKE ME YOUR DOG, TOO!!
They're yummy!
I SMELL CUPCAKES! HAND 'EM OVER!
HN?
SNIFF SNIFF

UM, B-BUT ...
OKAY! TAKE ME BACK TO YOUR HOUSE RIGHT NOW! I NEED TO BORROW YOUR OVEN!
C'MON! MOVE IT!!
It's baked to perfection!
WAIT, THAT'S WHY SHE WANTED TO SEE THEM?!
YES... THESE WERE BAKED UNTIL THEY WERE THE PERFECT GOLDEN BROWN COLOR. THAT'S THE SIGN OF A GOOD OVEN.
PLEASE, NO! I CAN'T FACE MY FAMILY! NOT YET!!
ONCE YOU FIND A HUSBAND, YOU'LL GO BACK TO VISIT YOUR FAMILY, RIGHT? SO WHAT KIND OF GUY DO YOU LIKE?
W-WELL, UM...
RIGHT. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH, THEN.
HUH?!
WHAT?! NO, THAT'S A TOTALLY DIFFER-ENT LEGEND!
A MAIL-ORDER BRIDE ON A JOURNEY TO THE WEST, EH?
HUNH. OKAY, SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND?

I-I GUESS I WOULD LIKE SOMEONE WHO IS STRONG AND HEALTHY... AND IF I WAS GOING TO BE *REALLY* PICKY, I'D LIKE HIM TO BE NICE, TOO.
IS THAT *ALL* YOU WANT? THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO HOME AND MARRY THAT STEP-BROTHER OF YOURS?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!

MARRY... MY... ONIICHAN? BUT...!
WELL, WHAT-EVER.
FWeee...

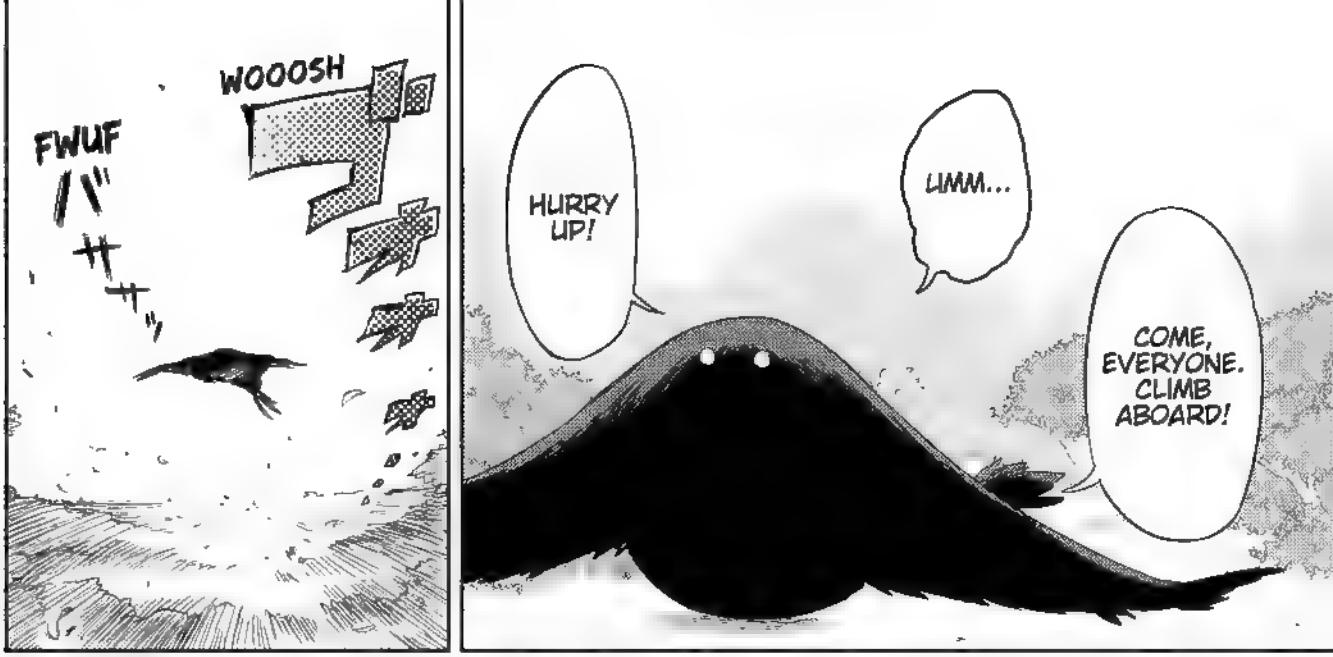
DOOOM
FWUF
FWUF
FWUF

YOU CALLED?
FWOOOOOM

YO! WOULD YOU CARRY US ON YOUR BACK? I'LL PAY YOU IN CUPCAKES.
FWOOO
CUPCAKES? NOM-NOM! OKAY, CLIMB ON UP!

HUH? NO. I'M JUST A NORMAL, REGULAR, EVERYDAY PHEASANT.
OM NOM
MUNCH MUNCH CHEW GULP...
A "NORMAL" PHEASANT ?!

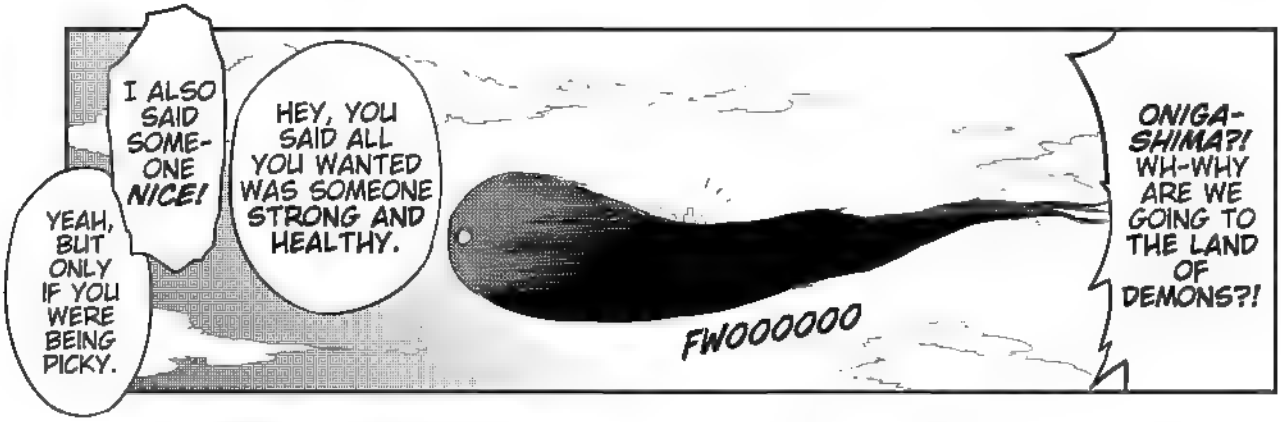
OOOOH MY GOSH! A-ARE YOU THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT OF SOME GREAT MOUNTAIN, OH HEAVENLY BIRD?!

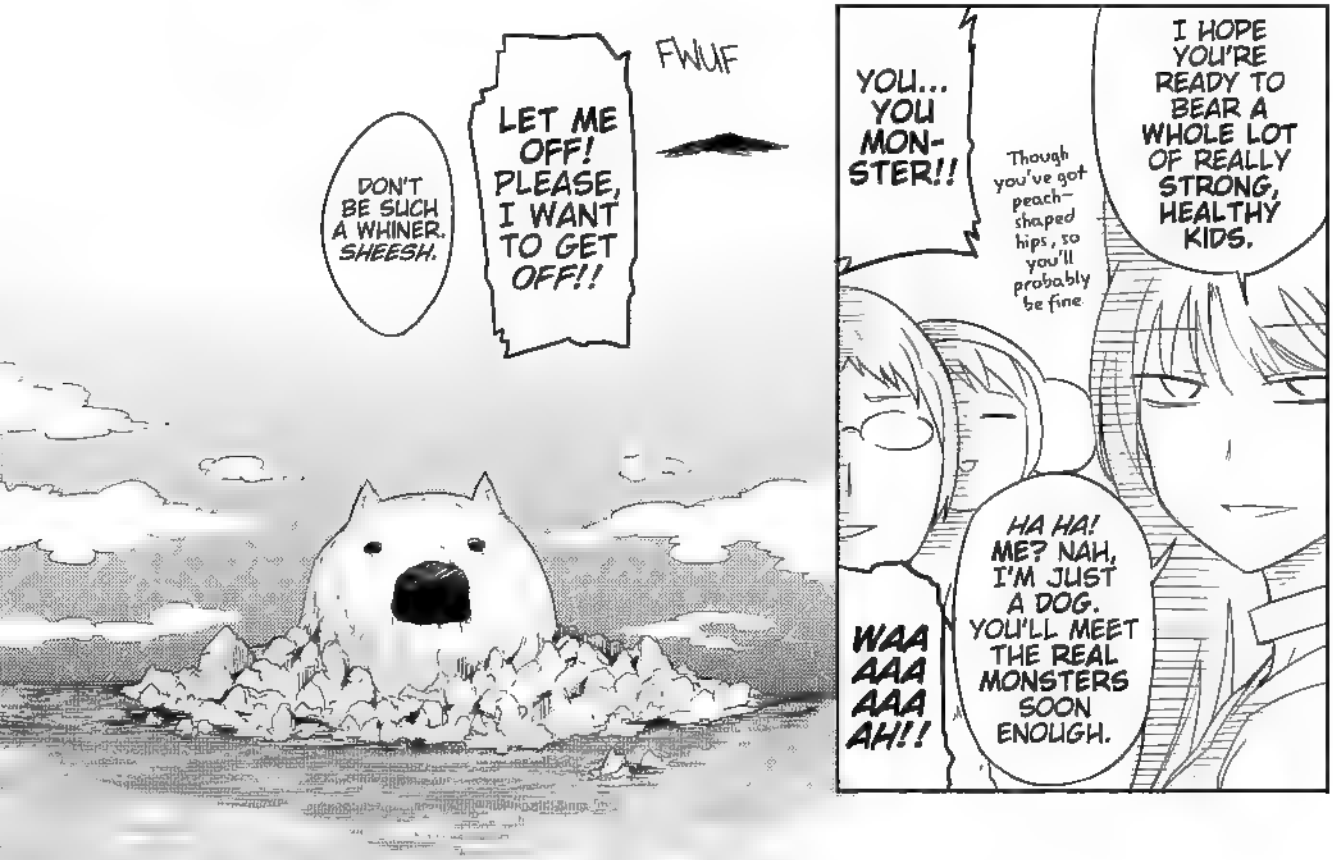

WOOOSH
FWUF
HURRY UP!
UMM...
COME, EVERYONE. CLIMB ABOARD!

MOTHER... ONIICHAN...
SNIFF SNIFF
FWOOO
We're so high up!
AH! HOME IS GETTING FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY!

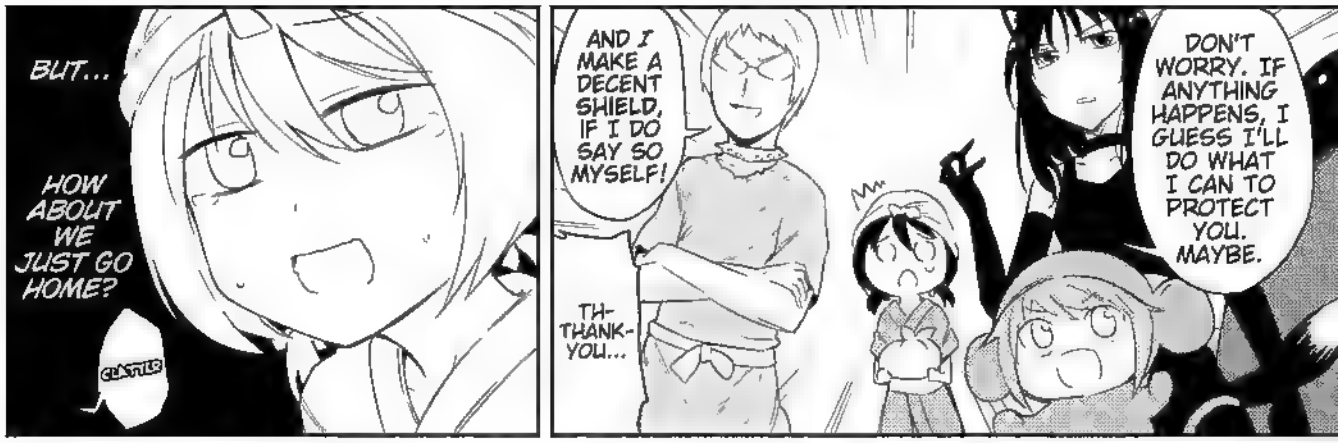
UM, SO, UH... WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HM? OH.
Augh?! Waaah! Get off!!
I HAVE TO BE STRONG!
NO! I HAVE TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER. I CAN'T AFFORD TO CRY, NOT NOW.

ONIGA-SHIMA.


ONIGA-SHIMA?! WH-WHY ARE WE GOING TO THE LAND OF DEMONS?!
FWOOOOOO
HEY, YOU SAID ALL YOU WANTED WAS SOMEONE STRONG AND HEALTHY.
I ALSO SAID SOME-ONE NICE!
YEAH, BUT ONLY IF YOU WERE BEING PICKY.


I HOPE YOU'RE READY TO BEAR A WHOLE LOT OF REALLY STRONG, HEALTHY KIDS.
YOU... YOU MON-STER!!
Though you've got peach-shaped hips, so you'll probably be fine
HA HA! ME? NAH, I'M JUST A DOG. YOU'LL MEET THE REAL MONSTERS SOON ENOUGH.
WAA AAA AAA AH!!
FWUF
LET ME OFF! PLEASE, I WANT TO GET OFF!!
DON'T BE SUCH A WHINER. SHEESH.

IT'S LIKE SHE WAS BORN TO SUFFER.
UGH. DON'T JUST STAND THERE CRYING! C'MON!
YUP, SHE'S GOT A TOTAL MARTYR-COMPLEX.
POOR GIRL...
SWOF
HERE WE ARE! PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP AS YOU DIS-EMBARK.


BUT...
HOW ABOUT WE JUST GO HOME?
CLATTER
AND I MAKE A DECENT SHIELD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
TH-THANK-YOU...
DON'T WORRY. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I GUESS I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO PROTECT YOU. MAYBE.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN OUR HOME?
TREMBLE
AH!
HM?

UM, WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO CAPTURE ANYONE. HONEST! PLEASE DON'T MIND THEM.
EEEE!
YEEEK!! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!!
W-WAIT! STOP! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO VIOLENT!!
WOO-HOO!! OGRE SIGHTING, ONE O'CLOCK!! EVERYBODY CAPTURE THE BOOB-MONSTER!!
NO! THAT ISN'T THE CASE AT ALL!
ARE THERE NO MEN LEFT IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD? IS THAT WHY YOU CAME HERE?
BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S JUST ME, MY MOM, AND MY SISTERS. THERE AREN'T ANY MEN HERE AT ALL.
MUNCH MUNCH
These are pretty yummy...
OH, SO YOU CAME HERE LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND?
N-NO, I'M NOT. I CAN'T FIGHT AND I MESS UP MY CHORES. I'M JUST A USELESS EXTRA MOUTH TO FEED. MY FAMILY KEEPS TELLING ME I SHOULD GO OUT AND FIND A HUSBAND.
OH MY GOSH! WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT!
UM, SO YOU STAYED TO GUARD THE HOUSE? YOU'RE VERY BRAVE!
HUH? OH DEAR...
UM, EVERYBODY WENT OUT SAYING THEY WERE GOING TO WAGE WAR AGAINST SOME GIANT BEAST THAT JUST FLEW OUT OF THE SKY.
SO WHERE IS THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY?

BONK
AH-AH-AH!
NO, FUNABORI-CHAN. YOU TWO ARE NOTHING ALIKE.
YOU DECIDED ALL ON YOUR OWN TO RUN AWAY!
NOBODY REALLY WANTED YOU TO LEAVE.
MONKEY-ONEE-SAN...
WAAAAH!
WAAAAH! MAYBE I DO FAIL AT LIFE, BUT I STILL TRY MY BEST!
BESIDES, YOU AREN'T COMPLETELY USELESS LIKE THIS GIRL. YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE AND GOOD AT HOUSEKEEPING! YOU'RE NOT AN EMBARRASSMENT TO YOUR FAMILY AT ALL! ♪
UM, THANK YOU ...?!
ヒック
EEP!
PLEASE, LET ME COME WITH YOU! I WANT TO BE BRAVE AND LOOK FOR A HUSBAND, TOO!
Waah! Waah!
WE CAME HERE LOOKING FOR HUSBANDS AND INSTEAD WE FOUND ANOTHER CRYBABY...

IT MUST BE! WE HAVE SEVERAL EYE-WITNESSES SAYING THEY SAW A GREAT BLACK BEAST CARRY THEM OFF IN THIS DIRECTION!
SO THIS IS WHERE THAT MONSTER TOOK FUNABORI AND THAT BOY ATARU?!
WHAT?! ONII-CHAN?!
We made it!!
.....
LIKE HELL! NO "NORMAL PHEASANT" IS THAT BIG!
MUNCH MUNCH
HMPF? ME? NO. I'M JUST A NORMAL, COMMON PHEASANT.
LOOOOOOOOOM
GAH!! ARE WE AT THE FINAL BOSS FIGHT ALREADY?!
FUNABORI?!
GREAT, NOW HE'S ON HER SIDE AND WE'RE DOWN TO THREE FARMERS!
"MONSTER"? NAY, WHAT I BEHOLD BEFORE US IS A GODDESS OF IMMENSE POWER! PLEASE, MAKE ME YOUR SERVANT, O HOLY ONE!!
"BLESSED" MY ASS! HOW ARE FOUR FARMERS SUPPOSED TO FEND OFF A MONSTER LIKE THAT?!
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE BLESSED WITH THE CHANCE TO SEE ONE OF THOSE IN THE FLESH!
WAIT! I'VE HEARD TALES ABOUT HOW CREATURES, IF THEY LIVE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, CAN TURN INTO DEMONIC MONSTERS WITH THE POWER TO REDUCE THE WORLD TO RUINS IN A SINGLE NIGHT!!

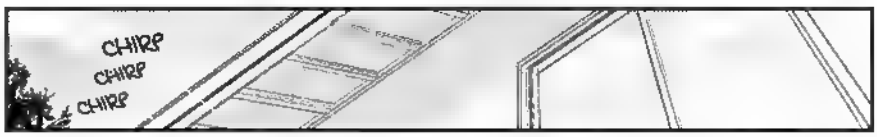
.....
CALM YOURSELVES, EVERYONE. REMEMBER, OUR GOAL TODAY IS TO RESCUE THE CAPTIVES. WE DO NOT NEED TO DEFEAT THE BEAST.
YEAH, YOU TELL 'EM NAGAYAMA! WAIT...WHAT'S WITH THAT GET-UP? YOU SURE DON'T LOOK LIKE A FARMER!
MAN, YOUR ONIICHAN IS QUICK WITH THOSE COMEBACKS.
BICKER
BICKER

ONII-CHAN, LET'S GO HOME.
FIRST, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE.
Me?
FUNA-BORI, GET BACK!
YOU TOO!

ONIICHAN, LET'S GO HOME. NOW.

AND SO FUNABORI'S BRIEF BUT EVENTFUL JOURNEY CAME TO AN END.
If you're sure..
UH... OKAY.
OKAY?

THE END.
Oooh...
Who are all these weirdos?
THE WHOLE FAMILY WENT HOME, AND LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

CHIRP
CHIRP
I LOVE

IT WAS MY DREAM! HOW COME I WAS STUCK BEING THE OFF-SCREEN NARRATOR WHILE KAZAMA-KUN GOT TO BE THE MAIN CHARACT-ER?!
CHOMP
CHOMP
WHY?!
WHY, DAM-MIT?!

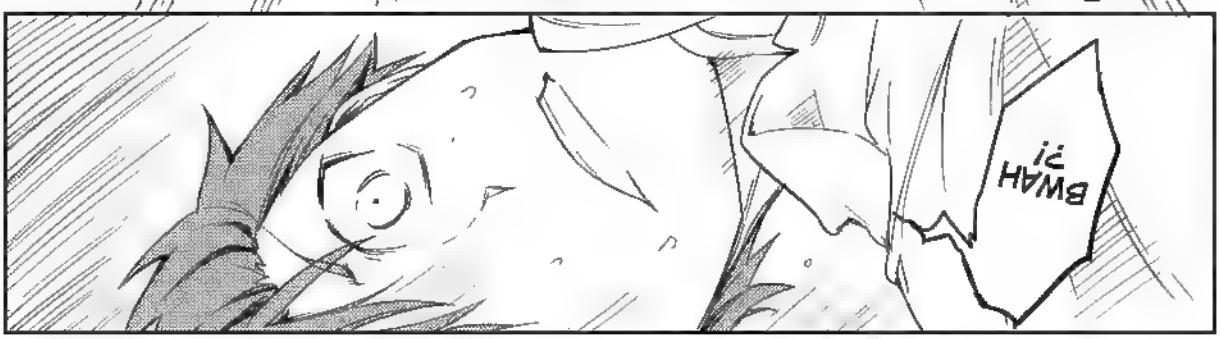
But why'd the narrator keep calling me "Oniichan"?
THESE CUP-CAKES ARE REALLY GOOD, THOUGH ...!
IT'S TOTALLY NOT FAIR! WHY'D YOU DO THIS TO ME, BRAIN?!

IT'S MY SURNAME.
UM... YOU DO KNOW THAT FUNABORI ISN'T MY FIRST NAME, RIGHT?
U
U

Well, yeah. 'Course I do. Dreams are just weird like that, y'know?
!!
S... sorry...

D-FRAGMENTS ディーふらぐ！

Chapter 31
I Guess You Were the Easiest Target?



WHAAM
KENJI'S BEEN KIDNAP-PED!!
EVERY-ONE, WE'VE GOT TROU-BLE!!
DEVELOPMENT
(TEMP)

WHAT, AGAIN ?!

NO, NOT THIS TIME...
LEAVE HIM. IT'S PROBABLY HIS OWN STUPID FAULT.

HMM, GOOD QUES-TION.
R-RIGHT! WH-WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!
OH DEAR. WHAT'LL WE DO?
WHAT'S WITH THAT BOY? ALWAYS PLAYING DAMSEL IN DIS-TRESS...

THE KIDNAPPERS WERE THIRD-YEARS HERE AT OUR OWN SCHOOL.
HMPH! OF COURSE IT'S THAT PUFFED-UP, AIR-HEAD EX.
SHE COULD'VE JUST COME STRAIGHT TO ME.
AH WELL. GUESS WE'D BETTER GO RESCUE HIM.
?
?
?
WHAT'S ...?
YES, LET'S GO!!
?!

UM, HE'S, LIKE, TOTALLY NOT MOVING~?

ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T THROW HIM TOO HARD?
YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN STRENGTH ...
IT'S TRUE. THE WORD "RE-STRAINT" HAS NEVER BEEN IN SAKAI'S DICTION-ARY.
AND WHY EVEN THROW HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE?
OH? IT SEEMS TO ME...

HIS CONDITION STEMS LESS FROM PHYSICAL DAMAGE AND MORE FROM PSYCHO-LOGICAL SHOCK.
BUT YOU STILL PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE THROWN HIM.

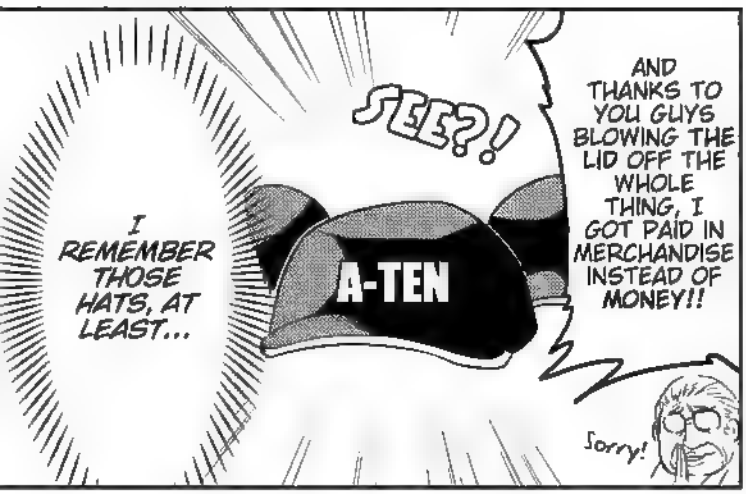
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS?! HOW DARE YOU AMBUSH ME LIKE THAT! COW-ARDS !!
IF YOU'VE GOT A BEEF WITH ME, WE CAN FIGHT IT OUT FAIR AND SQUARE!! UNTIE ME! NOW!!
AH.
HE'S STILL ALIVE.
THE POWER OF YOUTH.

UH-OH! HE'S GONE ALL DEAD AGAIN.
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. YOUNG MEN LIKE HIM HAVE DELICATE EGOS.

I'M, LIKE, TOTES SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT YOU LOOKED LIKE THE EASIEST ONE TO GRAB.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO THREW ME?
WAIT, WHAT DO YOU MEAN "EASIEST ONE TO GRAB"?!

WE'RE REALLY VERY SORRY. IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT WE HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH SOME PEOPLE AND NEEDED A HOSTAGE...
YOU LOOKED RATHER TOUGH AND CAPABLE OF ABSORBING SOME DAMAGE. PLUS, SINCE YOU'RE A DECENT YOUNG MAN, WE FIGURED YOU'D DROP YOUR GUARD AROUND LADIES, AND, UM... WELL, IN THE END I GUESS YOU WERE SIMPLY THE EASIEST TARGET.
THAT'S DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL BETTER! YOU JUST SAID WHAT SHE SAID IN MORE WORDS! AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT'S "NOTHING PERSONAL"?!
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE?!
UM, ACTU-ALLY ...
IT IS KINDA PER-SONAL.
WHAT?!
YEAH, FOR ME TOO!
SHOVE
?!
DON'T YOU DARE SAY YOU'VE FOR-GOTTEN ABOUT ME, TOO!
UHHH, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE.

WHAT?! BUT I WAS *RIGHT THERE* IN THE TOURNAMENT FOR THE BAG! I WAS THE GIRL INSIDE THE GIANT ROBOT!!
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT?! I DON'T HAVE X-RAY VISION!!
BY THE WAY, I WAS THERE AS WELL. I WAS SITTING IN THE STANDS.
WHO CARES?!
WAIT, YOU WERE?! THEN WHY *THE HECK* DID I HAVE TO HIDE INSIDE THAT ROBOT?!


AND THANKS TO YOU GUYS BLOWING THE LID OFF THE WHOLE THING, I GOT PAID IN MERCHANDISE INSTEAD OF MONEY!!
SEE?!
A-TEN
I REMEMBER THOSE HATS, AT LEAST...
Sorry!

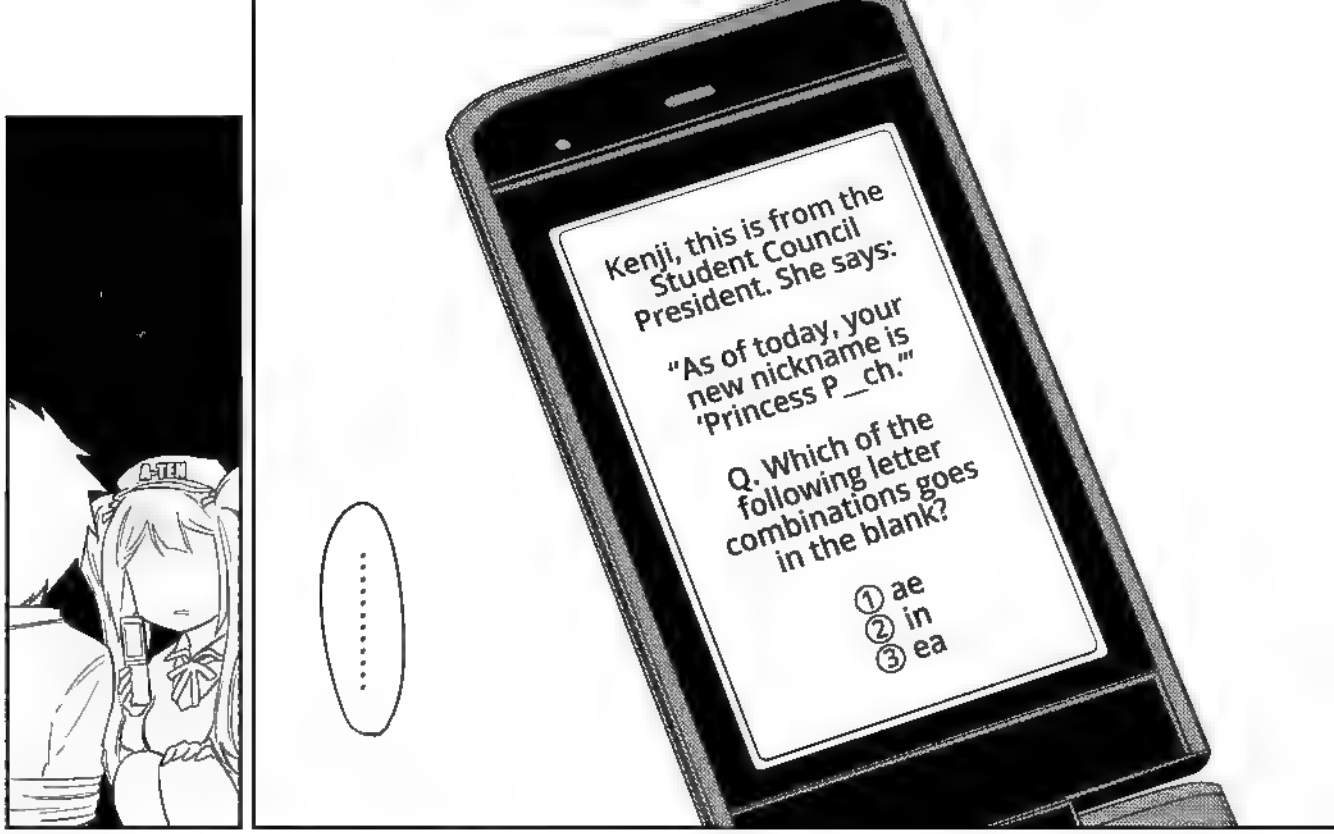
A-ANYWAY, I WAS *ALSO* AT TENJIN TEMPLE'S GREAT WATER RACE! I WORK THERE AS A PART-TIME SHRINE MAIDEN!
FINISH LINE 800m
WELL I *STILL* DON'T REMEMBER YOU!

WELL, I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS GUY BEFORE. GUESS THAT PUTS ME IN LAST PLACE.
A-TEN
PULL
AND WHY ARE YOU PUTTING ON THOSE HATS? ARE THEY SOME KIND OF LOSER-SYMBOL?

I WAS NOT, IN FACT, AT THE GREAT WATER RACE. IT SEEMS I LOSE THIS ROUND.
A-TEN
Tug
WAIT, WHEN DID THIS BECOME A COMPE-TITION?!

IT'S JUST, WHEN I GOT THEM, THE WHOLE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP) WAS THERE! IT WAS, THE PERFECT TIME TO CHALLENGE THEM!
IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY CARE ABOUT WHETHER YOU GUYS WEAR THOSE DUMB HATS OR NOT.
OH, GIVE ME A BREAK! THAT STUPID HAT ISN'T GONNA FIT OVER YOUR GINORMOUS PIGTAILS!!
.....
Squiiish
A-TEN
BUT NONE OF YOU SHOWED UP!!
But nobody replied!
I sent texts to all of you...
OH, YOU DID? SORRY! I WAS, LIKE, AT THE MOVIE THEATER, SO MY PHONE WAS OFF.
YOU WERE AT THE MOVIES?! DON'T TELL ME YOU HAD A DATE!
NOPE. WITH FRIENDS.
EH ?!
OH, YES. NOW I REMEMBER. THAT'S WHY I WASN'T AT THE RACE.
NO FAIR! WHY DIDN'T YOU INVITE ME TOO?! I WANTED TO GO!
OH, RIGHT, I ALSO SAW A MOVIE THAT DAY.
NAH, I WENT TO SHINJUKU TO FOR AN ANIME SCREENING.
YOU, TOO? WAS I THE ONLY ONE LEFT OUT?!
YOU WENT TO A MOVIE ALONE ?! THAT'S SAD!

HANG ON. IF THEY HAVE COLLEGE EXAMS COMING UP, DOES THAT MEAN THEY'RE ALL THIRD-YEARS?
FLOP
GAWD, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS! YOU'VE ALL GOT COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS COMING UP, SO COULDN'T YOU JUST LIE AND SAY YOU HAD YOUR PHONES OFF BECAUSE YOU WERE STUDYING?!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WERE STUDYING EITHER!
DOES THIS MEAN I'M REALLY NOT THEIR TARGET, I'M JUST GETTING CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE?
AND SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE GAME DEV. CLUB, TOO.
A-TEN
OOH, AND IT'S FROM ATARU-CHAN!
OH, LOOK! YOU GOT A TEXT!
YOU KNOW ATARU ?!
HEY! DON'T TOUCH MY PHONE!
AAA-UGH!! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!

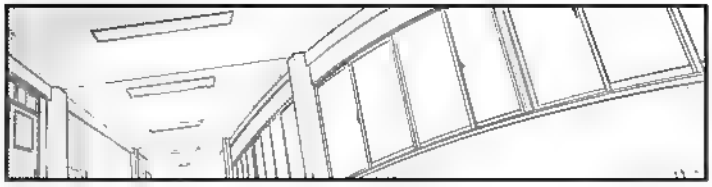

A-TEN
.....
Kenji, this is from the Student Council President. She says:
"As of today, your new nickname is 'Princess P__ch.'"
Q. Which of the following letter combinations goes in the blank?
① ae
② in
③ ea

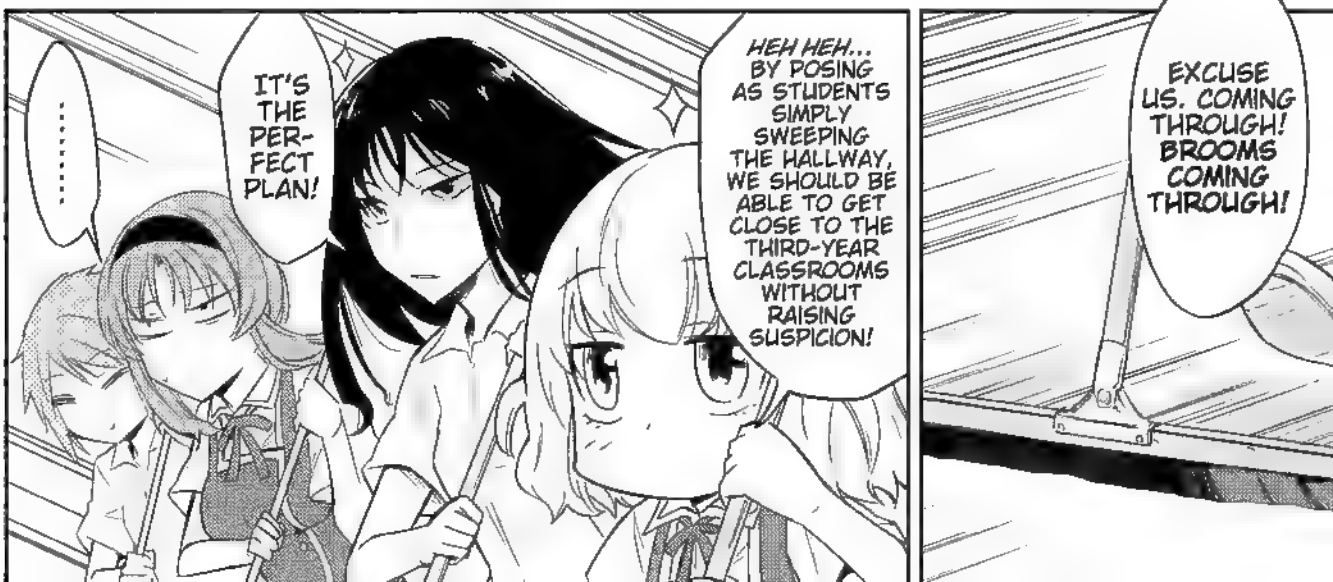
YOU DO REALIZE THIS MEANS THEY'RE COMING, RIGHT?
WOULDN'T I STILL BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, TOO?
IF WE WANT TO AVOID COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, I WOULD SAY ANSWER 2.

ATTACKING US EN MASSE IS SUCH A COWARDLY TACTIC! MY PRIDE WON'T STAND FOR IT.
BESIDES, I STILL HAVE MY SECRET WEAPON. I WILL BRING HOME THE VICTORY AT ANY COST!!
BIG TALK FROM THE PEOPLE WHO TOOK A HOSTAGE!
WAIT, YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THEM ON ALONE?! THAT'S CRAZY TALK!!
HEH. WELL THEN, I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO TAKE CARE OF THEM. BACK IN A JIFFY!
A-TEN
ISN'T ANYONE ELSE GOING TO TRY AND STOP HER?! ANYONE?!

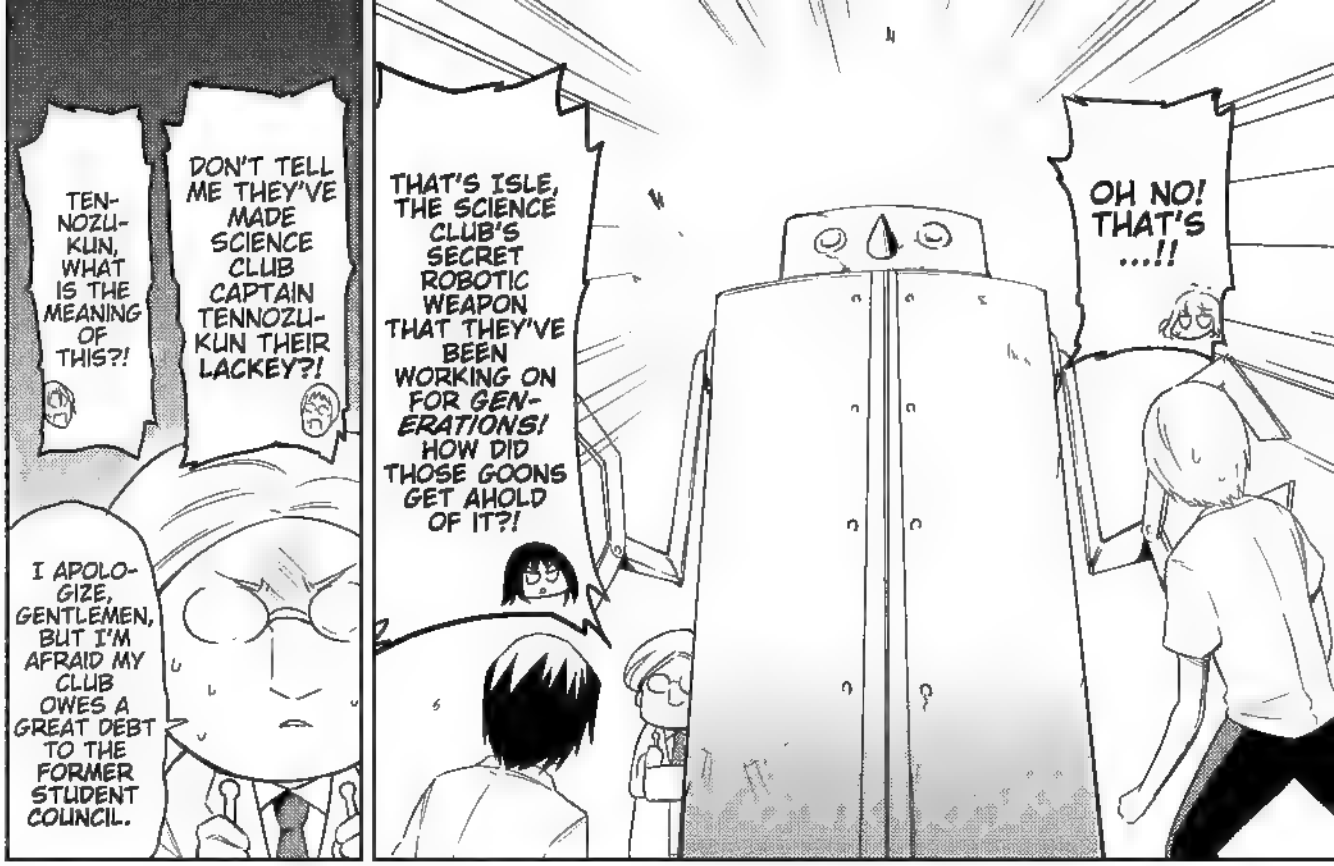
RATTLE
A-TEN
SHE STILL HASN'T GOTTEN OVER THAT?!
SO, IF... NO, WHEN I RETURN, INVITE ME TO THE MOVIES WITH YOU, OKAY?
AWW, YOU'RE SWEET!
THEN GO OUT AND STOP HER, YOU JERKS!
WHAT MADE HER THINK SHE COULD HANDLE IT ON HER OWN?
YES, I DOUBT THAT SHE'LL SURVIVE THE FIGHT.
UH, IS IT ME, OR WAS THAT, LIKE, TOTALLY OMI-NOUS?
KLANG KLONG
WOW! YOUR HAIR IS LIKE, TOTALLY SPIKEY!
!!
WAIT, "BARFIE"? YOU SERIOUSLY CALL HER BARFIE?! THAT'S THE MEANEST NICKNAME I'VE EVER HEARD! YOU DON'T RESPECT HER AT ALL!
SO I'M GONNA RESPECT HER DECISION AND GIVE HER SPACE.
BUT BARFIE HAS HER PRIDE TOO, Y'KNOW. SHE CAN'T STAND HAVING PEOPLE YOUNGER THAN HER LOOKING DOWN ON HER.

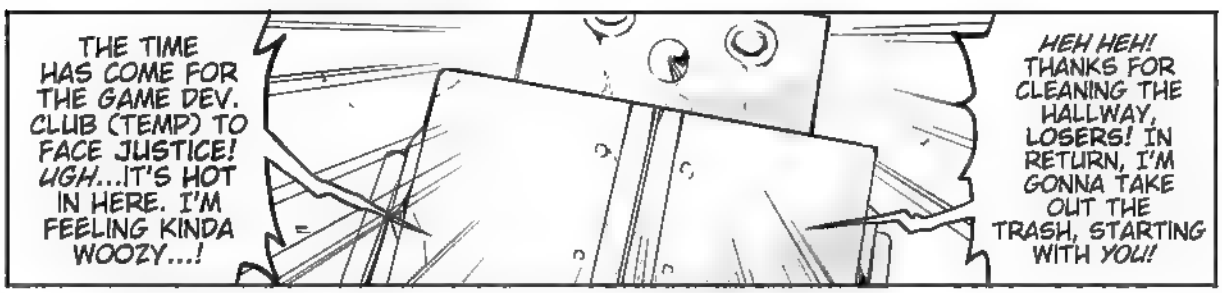
SHE MIGHT ACTUALLY PULL IT OFF!!
ギュィィ
I'LL BE BACK...
ィィ〜ン。。
VWEEEEEEM_

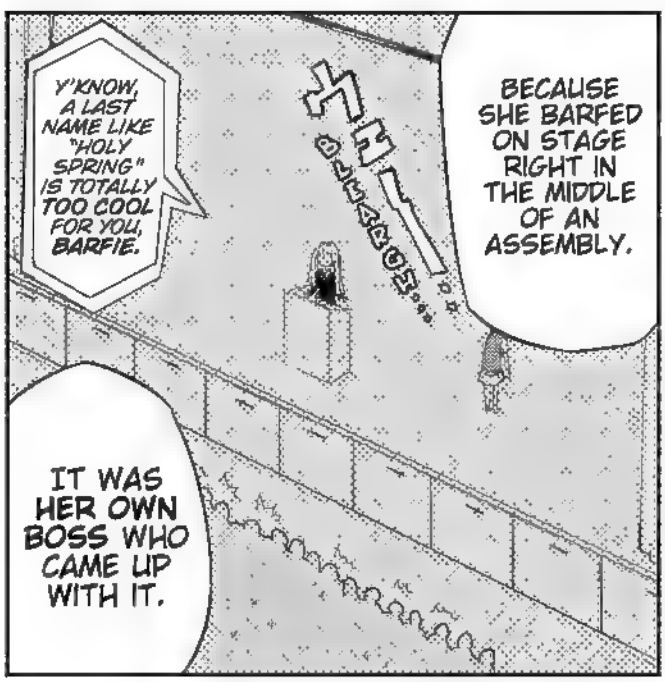



.....
IT'S THE PER-FECT PLAN!
HEH HEH... BY POSING AS STUDENTS SIMPLY SWEEPING THE HALLWAY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO THE THIRD-YEAR CLASSROOMS WITHOUT RAISING SUSPICION!
EXCUSE US. COMING THROUGH! BROOMS COMING THROUGH!

HEY, UM... ABOUT THESE THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS WHO HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU...
IT'S THEM, RIGHT?
YOU DO REALIZE WE STAND OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB, RIGHT?
Why are we all in a row?
You're clear!
Okay!
YOU GUYS NEVER REALLY GOT ALONG, DID YOU?
It hurts but I can't stop touching it...
THE FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL.
WAH !!
THWACK!!
YES, I WISH THEM NOTHING BUT THE BEST. I HOPE THEY HAVE A SAFE SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. AND THEN FAIL THEIR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS AND GET FLATTENED BY THE MERCILESS TIDE OF LIFE.
.....
OH, NO, NO. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. WE JUST, AH, DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON SOME THINGS. MANY THINGS. OKAY, EVERY-THING.

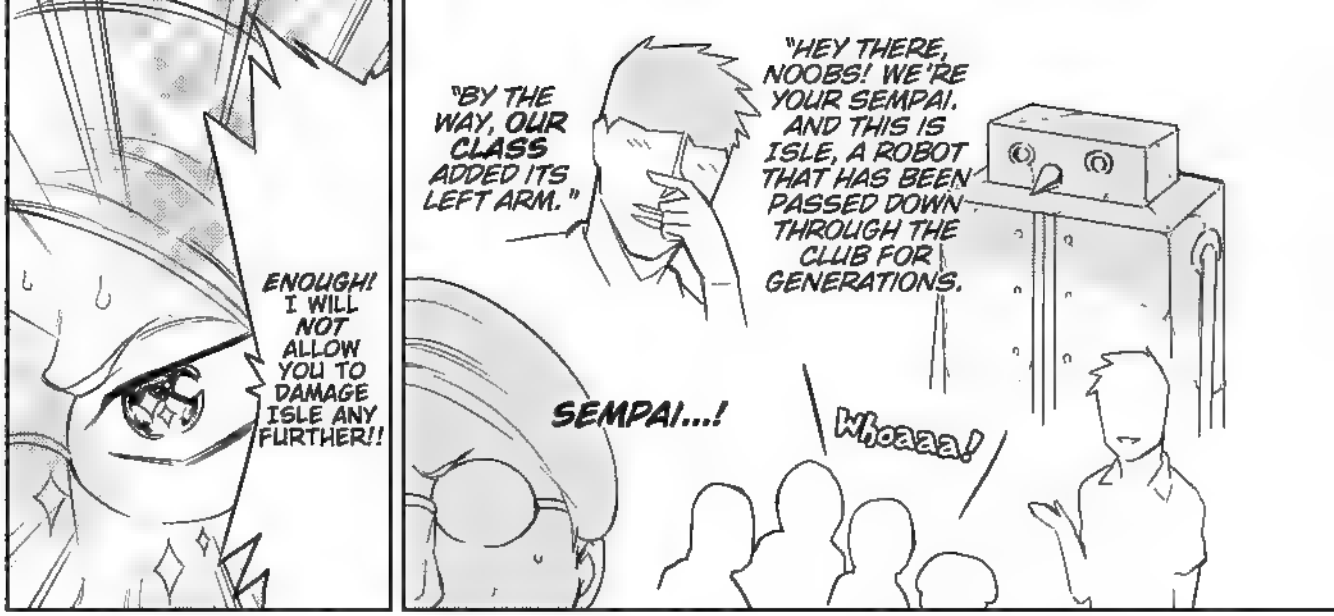

TEN-NOZU-KUN, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
DON'T TELL ME THEY'VE MADE SCIENCE CLUB CAPTAIN TENNOZU-KUN THEIR LACKEY?!
I APOLO-GIZE, GENTLEMEN, BUT I'M AFRAID MY CLUB OWES A GREAT DEBT TO THE FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL.
THAT'S ISLE, THE SCIENCE CLUB'S SECRET ROBOTIC WEAPON THAT THEY'VE BEEN WORKING ON FOR GEN-ERATIONS! HOW DID THOSE GOONS GET AHOLD OF IT?!
OH NO! THAT'S ...!!

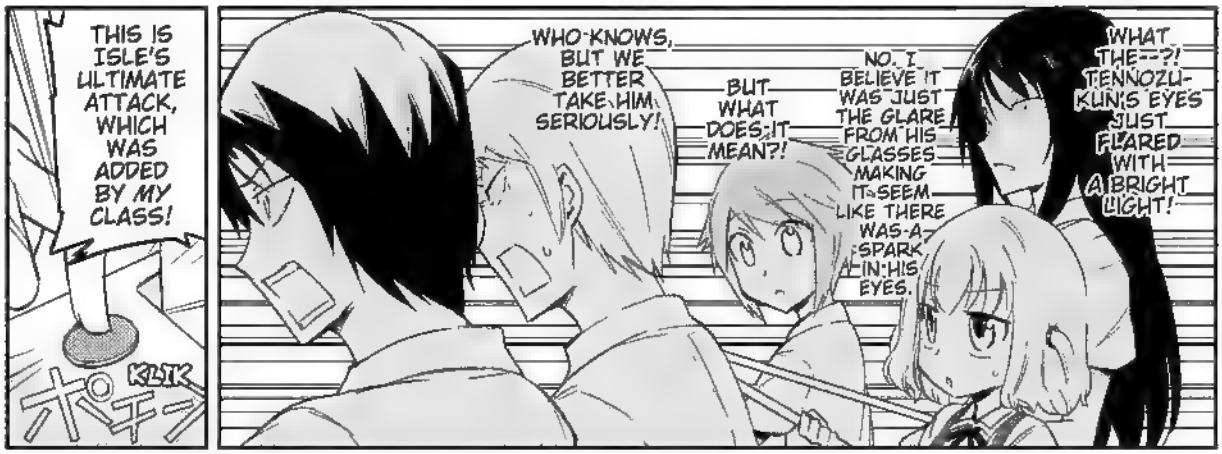

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP) TO FACE JUSTICE! UGH...IT'S HOT IN HERE. I'M FEELING KINDA WOOZY...!
HEH HEH! THANKS FOR CLEANING THE HALLWAY, LOSERS! IN RETURN, I'M GONNA TAKE OUT THE TRASH, STARTING WITH YOU!


Y'KNOW, A LAST NAME LIKE "HOLY SPRING" IS TOTALLY TOO COOL FOR YOU, BARFIE.
BECAUSE SHE BARFED ON STAGE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ASSEMBLY.
IT WAS HER OWN BOSS WHO CAME UP WITH IT.

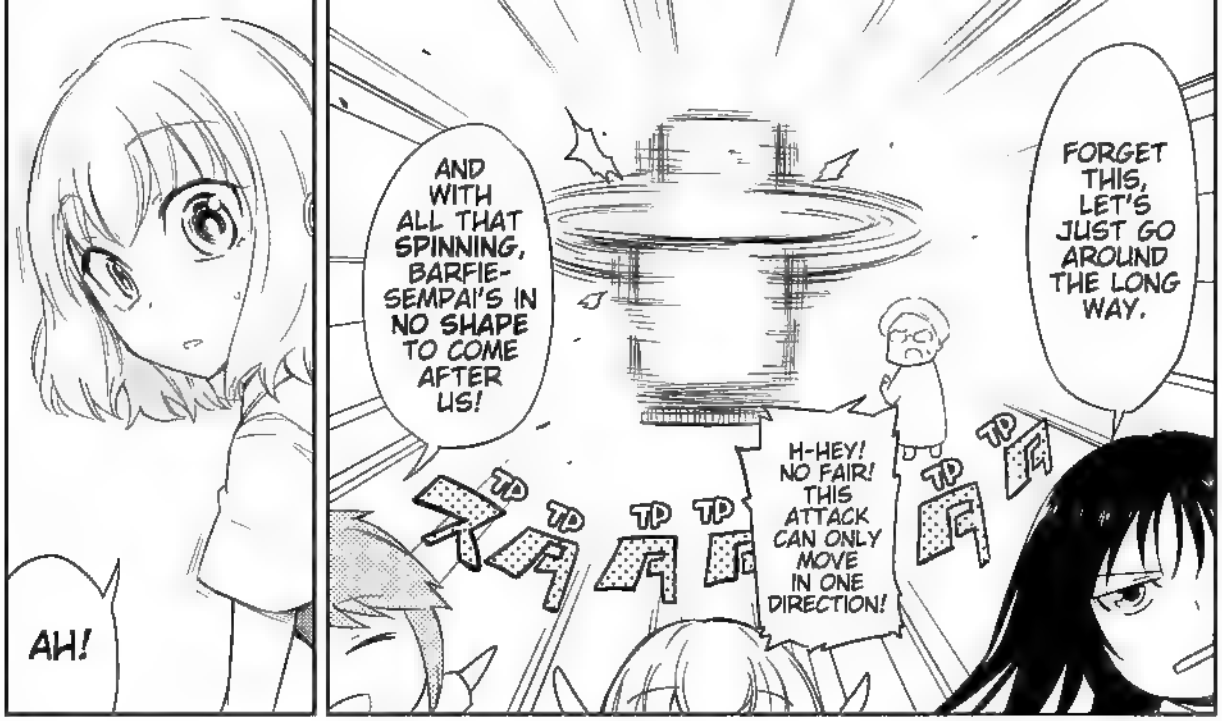
DON'T CALL ME "BARFIE," YOU JERKS!
WAIT, DON'T YOU MEAN FORMER COUNCIL SECRETARY SHINSEN-SEMPAI?
UH-OH. THAT'S BARFIE IN THERE.
UH, WHY DO PEOPLE CALL HER BARFIE?
THAT'S BARFIE-SEMPAI?

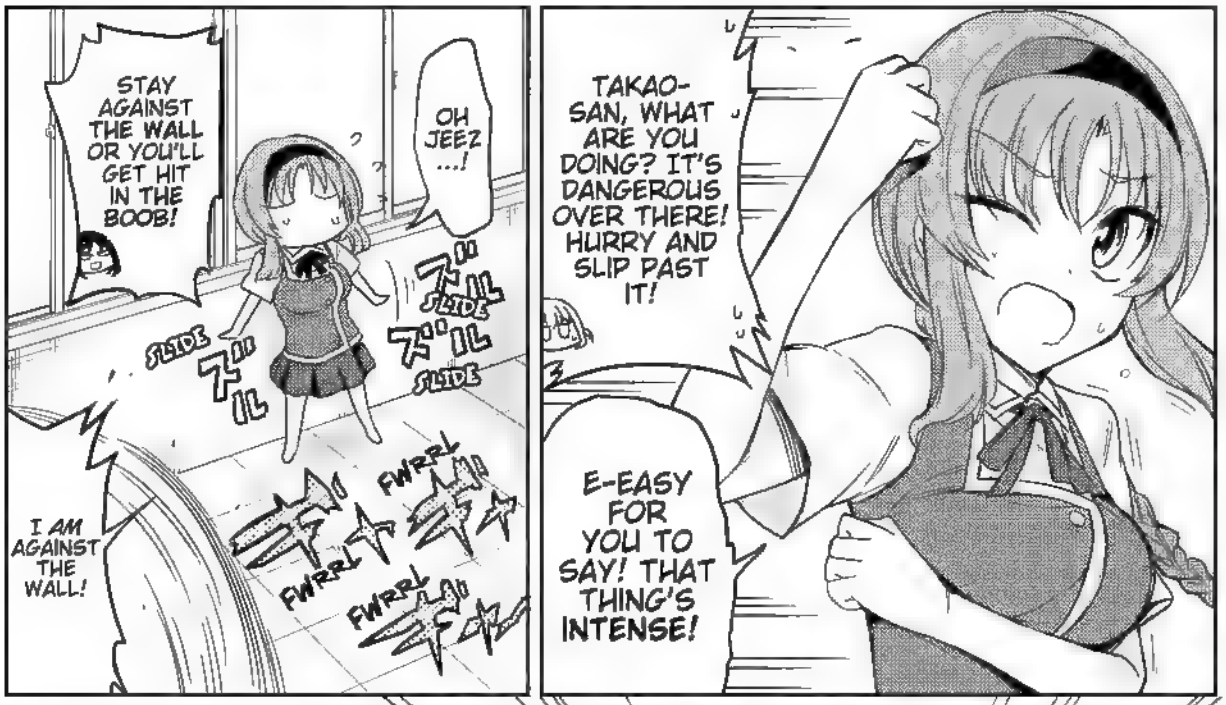
WHAT SAY WE DO "THAT"? IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
YEAH.
ANYWAY, LET'S PUSH PAST HER.
KLANG
BANG
WAAAAH!! I HATE YOU! I HATE ALL OF YOU!! I'M GONNA TAKE YOU ALL OUT, RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW--!
BARFIE-SEMPAI, PLEASE! DON'T FLAIL AROUND IN THERE! IT WILL JUST MAKE YOU WARMER! OOPS... DID I SAY "BARFIE"? I MEANT SHINSEN-SEMPAI!
TOGETHER, WE FORM... NATURAL DISASTER ATTACK!!
Huh?
WHRRR
RRRL
EARTH!
FIRE!
WATER!
NO! ISLE IS THE SCIENCE CLUB'S PRIDE AND JOY!
INDEED! WE WANT TO PLAY WITH IT!
THERE IS NO MERCY ON THE BATTLEFIELD! IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR PRECIOUS ROBOT DINGED UP ANY WORSE, HAND OVER THAT CONTROLLER!
STOP! PLEASE! YOU'RE DAMAGING ISLE, YOU MONSTERS!
TUG TUG
YAAAH!
WAIT... YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WHACK AT IT?
Yaaaah!
WAK WAK
N-NO! STOP! ALL THAT NOISE IS ECHOING IN HERE...! IT'S GIVING ME A HEADACHE!


ENOUGH! I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO DAMAGE ISLE ANY FURTHER!!
"BY THE WAY, OUR CLASS ADDED ITS LEFT ARM."
"HEY THERE, NOOBS! WE'RE YOUR SEMPAI. AND THIS IS ISLE, A ROBOT THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE CLUB FOR GENERATIONS.
SEMPAI...!
Whoaaa!


THIS IS ISLE'S ULTIMATE ATTACK, WHICH WAS ADDED BY MY CLASS!
ポチッ
KLIK
WHO KNOWS, BUT WE BETTER TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY!
BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!
NO. I BELIEVE IT WAS JUST THE GLARE FROM HIS GLASSES MAKING IT SEEM LIKE THERE WAS A SPARK IN HIS EYES.
WHAT THE--?! TENNOZU-KUN'S EYES JUST FLARED WITH A BRIGHT LIGHT!

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE SPINNING ATTACK!
BUT THAT CAN'T BE GOOD FOR BARFIE-SEMPAI...!!
ギュルルルルル
WWHRRRRL
THE ISLE SPIN!!
Ulp!
Bleargh!


AH!
AND WITH ALL THAT SPINNING, BARFIE-SEMPAI'S IN NO SHAPE TO COME AFTER US!
FORGET THIS, LET'S JUST GO AROUND THE LONG WAY.
H-HEY! NO FAIR! THIS ATTACK CAN ONLY MOVE IN ONE DIRECTION!
TP
TP
TP
TP
TP
TP


STAY AGAINST THE WALL OR YOU'LL GET HIT IN THE BOOB!
OH JEEZ ...!
I AM AGAINST THE WALL!
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
FWRRL
FWRRL
FWRRL
TAKAO-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S DANGEROUS OVER THERE! HURRY AND SLIP PAST IT!
E-EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! THAT THING'S INTENSE!

WHRRRRL
KLATTER
HUH?

MOVE IT.
KRIK
WHAM
WHAAA ?!
THWAP
BUT HOW...?!
NO! ISLE!! MY POOR ISLE!!
YOU MEAN POOR BARFIE-SEMPAI! SHE'S PROBABLY HURLED HER GUTS OUT! AND WHAT'S THAT SMELL...?!

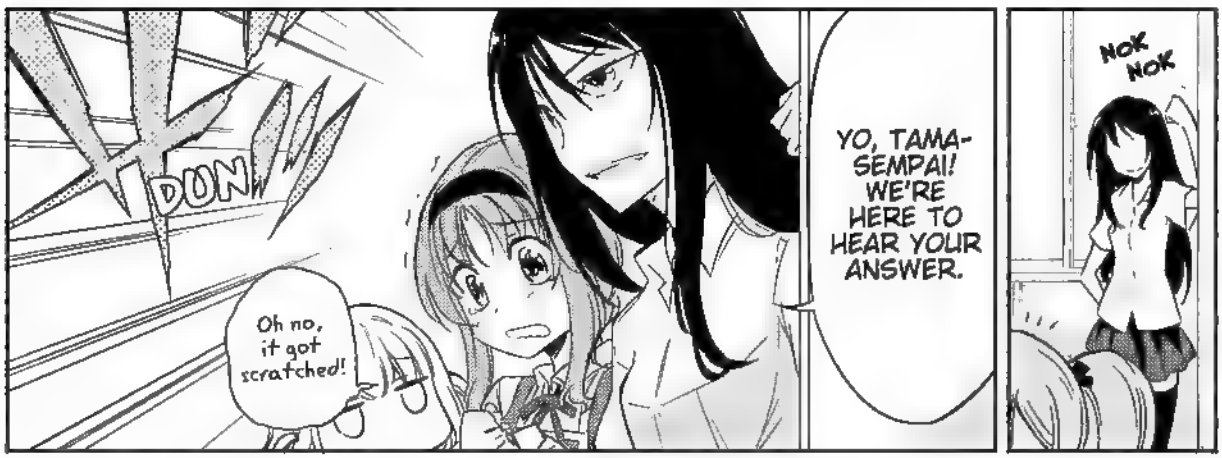
UGH. SOUNDS LIKE BARFIE LOST.
BIG SURPRISE. NOT!
?!
Gross!
Eeeww!!

THAT 10,000 YEN WAS A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM MY GRAN-DADDY.
THANKS FOR TURNING IN THAT ENVELOPE OF NEW YEAR'S GIFT MONEY YOU FOUND.
HUH?
?

From: Grandpa
To: My Dear Tama-chan
See Vol. 3, Ch. 21.

ANY-HOO, BEFORE I GO I WANTED TO SAY...

WAIT, YOU'RE "TAMA-CHAN"?!
.....
OOOH. BEING CALLED "CHAN" BY SOMEONE YOUNGER IS, LIKE, KINDA HOT.


DON
Oh no, it got scratched!
YO, TAMA-SEMPAI! WE'RE HERE TO HEAR YOUR ANSWER.
NOK NOK

ANSWER #2.

AH
This feeling... Has she done it again?
What is it, Mom?
SHK SHK
Huh?
SHK
Japanese Pear

D-FRAGMENTS ディーふらぐ！

TAMA-SEMPAI, LONG TIME NO SEE!
YEAH, TOTES.
LIKE, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

Chapter 32
Like, Abolish the Game Dev. Club (Temp)

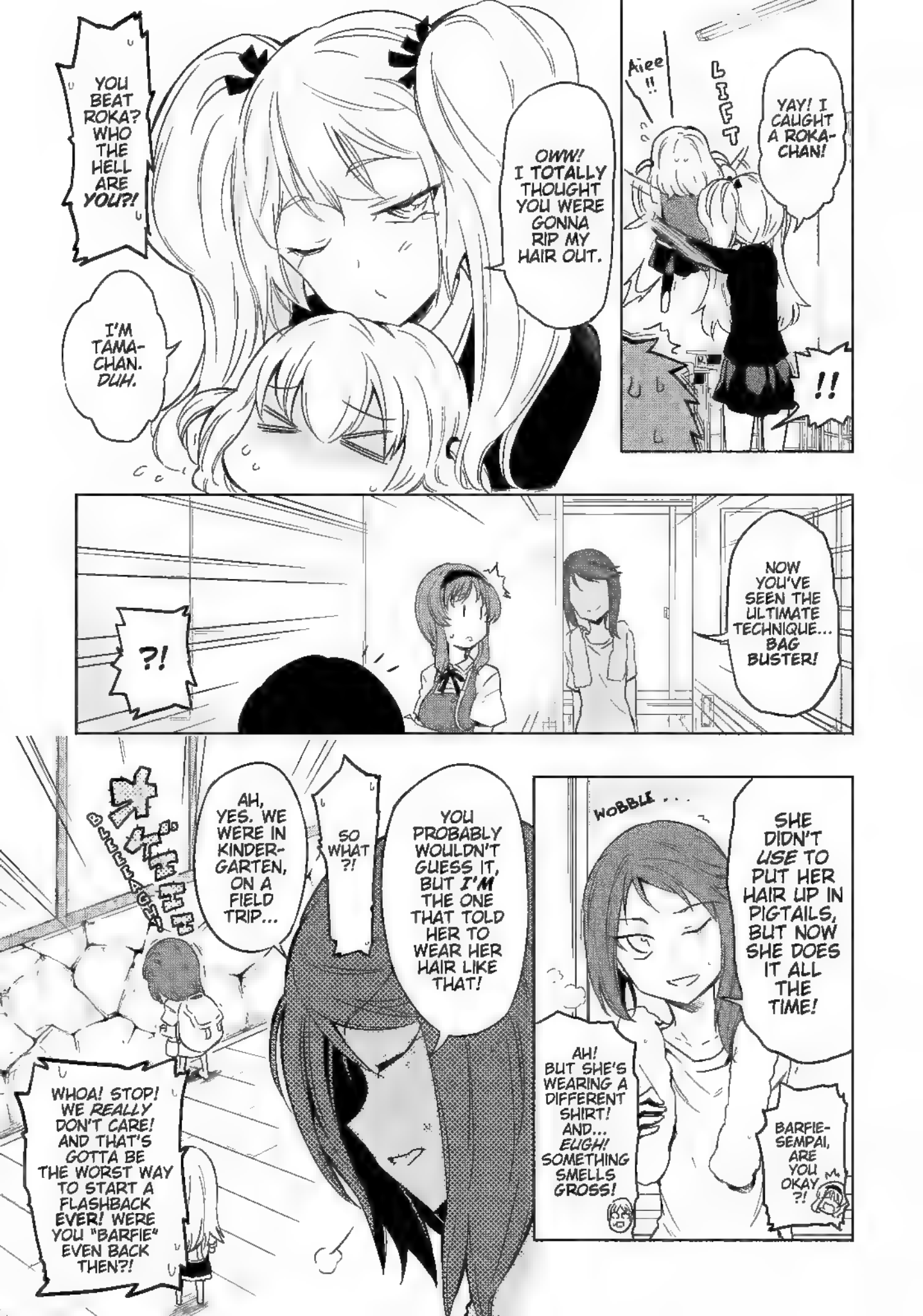
AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED BETWEEN US, YOU GETTING TO LUNCH AHEAD OF ME WAS THE LAST STRAW!
Like, definitely.
THAT'S ONE SMALL STRAW!!

IT'S NOT THAT BAD! YOU TWO THINK WAY TOO MUCH ALIKE!!
DON
YEAH, IT WAS TOTALLY A SLIGHTLY-WORSE-THAN-AVERAGE EVENT.
IT'S NO SMALL THING TO US.
DON
WOOSH
!!
SWOOOOO
A-TEM

A-TEN
NOW
!!
ZOOOM

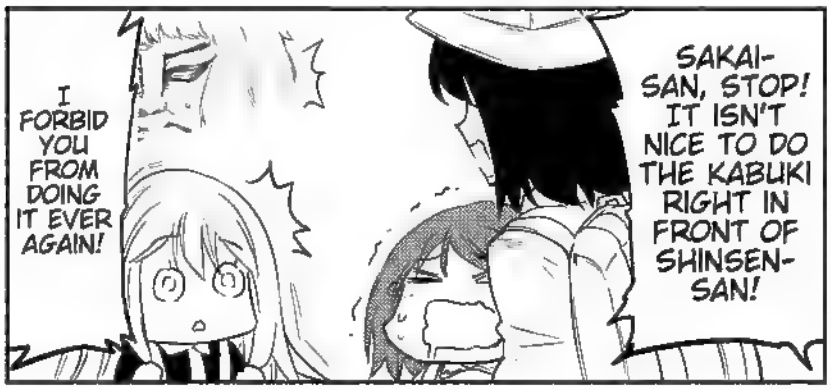
THD
GRSH
GRSH
WHA
?

SHE'S USING HER PIG-TAILS...
GRSH
GRSH
GRSH
GRSH
GRSH
TO BLOCK ROKA'S BAG!!
?
?


YOU BEAT ROKA? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
I'M TAMA-CHAN. DUH.
OWW! I TOTALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA RIP MY HAIR OUT.
Aiee !!
LIFT
YAY! I CAUGHT A ROKA-CHAN!
!!
?!
NOW YOU'VE SEEN THE ULTIMATE TECHNIQUE... BAG BUSTER!
WHOA! STOP! WE REALLY DON'T CARE! AND THAT'S GOTTA BE THE WORST WAY TO START A FLASHBACK EVER! WERE YOU "BARFIE" EVEN BACK THEN?!
@#%&!@#%&!?
AH, YES. WE WERE IN KINDER-GARTEN, ON A FIELD TRIP...
SO WHAT ?!
YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T GUESS IT, BUT I'M THE ONE THAT TOLD HER TO WEAR HER HAIR LIKE THAT!
WOBBLE . . .
SHE DIDN'T USE TO PUT HER HAIR UP IN PIGTAILS, BUT NOW SHE DOES IT ALL THE TIME!
AH! BUT SHE'S WEARING A DIFFERENT SHIRT! AND... EUGH! SOMETHING SMELLS GROSS!
BARFIE-SEMPAI, ARE YOU OKAY ?!

KABUKI !!
THAT'S THE KABUKI ?!
WFF
WFF
WFF

WAAAAAH!
OH DEAR! SHINSEN-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A TUMMY ACHE FROM THE BUS RIDE?
NO, SENSEI! TAMA DID THE KABUKI AND IT MADE HER DIZZY!
"THE KABUKI" ?


SAKAI-SAN, STOP! IT ISN'T NICE TO DO THE KABUKI RIGHT IN FRONT OF SHINSEN-SAN!
I FORBID YOU FROM DOING IT EVER AGAIN!

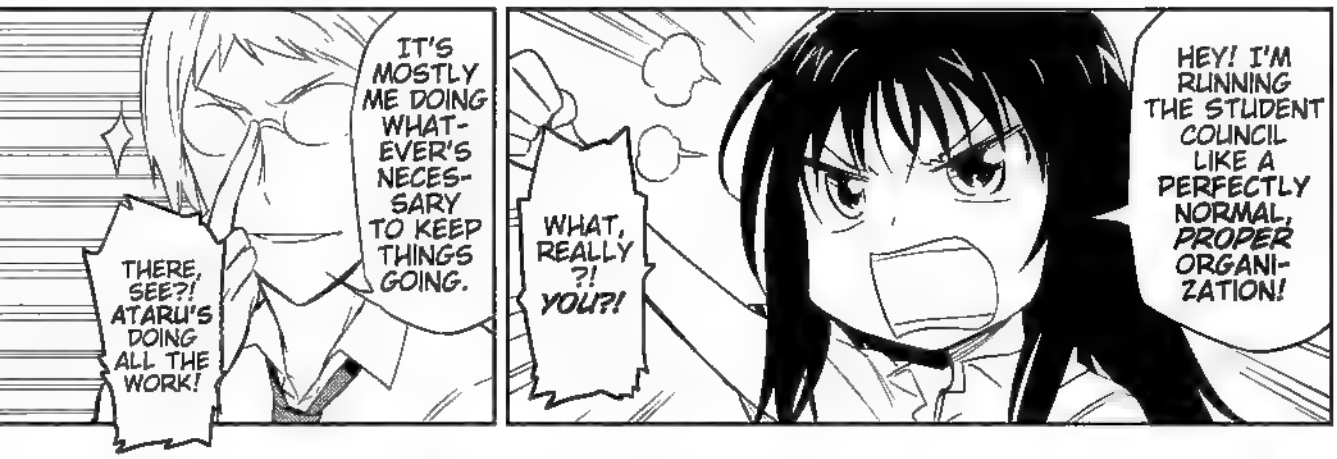
SENSEI, I UNDER-STAND.

SWF
SWF
I WILL SEAL AWAY THE KABUKI FOREVER.

SO YOU COULD SAY HER SUCCESS TODAY IS ENTIRELY THANKS TO ME!
WHO CARES?! AND YOU DIDN'T GET HER TO STOP THE KABUKI, EITHER!
BLAAGH!
WHRL WHRL
NOW I WILL USE DOUBLE KABUKI!!
SHE HASN'T "SEALED" IT! SHE POWERED UP!
AND THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED.
HUH? WHAT?! WHY ARE YOU SO DEFENSIVE ABOUT THIS?!
I'D TOTALLY BE A SERIOUS, STRAIGHT-HAIRED OLDER SISTER TYPE OTHERWISE!
YEAH, SO IT'S TOTALLY NOT MY FAULT. I DON'T PUT MY HAIR UP IN PIGTAILS BECAUSE IT'S, LIKE, CUTE OR MY STYLE OR WHATEVER.
HANG IN THERE, PRINCESS PINCH! WE'LL SAVE YOU!
THEN DO IT ALREADY! THIS IS HUMILIATING ENOUGH WITHOUT YOU MORONS DRAGGING IT OUT!
HRM.
HUH? YOU WANT ROKA FIRST? WOULDN'T MOST PEOPLE, LIKE, GO FOR MR. PRINCESS PINCH OVER THERE?
DON'T CALL ME "PRINCESS PINCH"!!
FORGET ALL THAT CRAP. PUT ROKA DOWN RIGHT NOW.

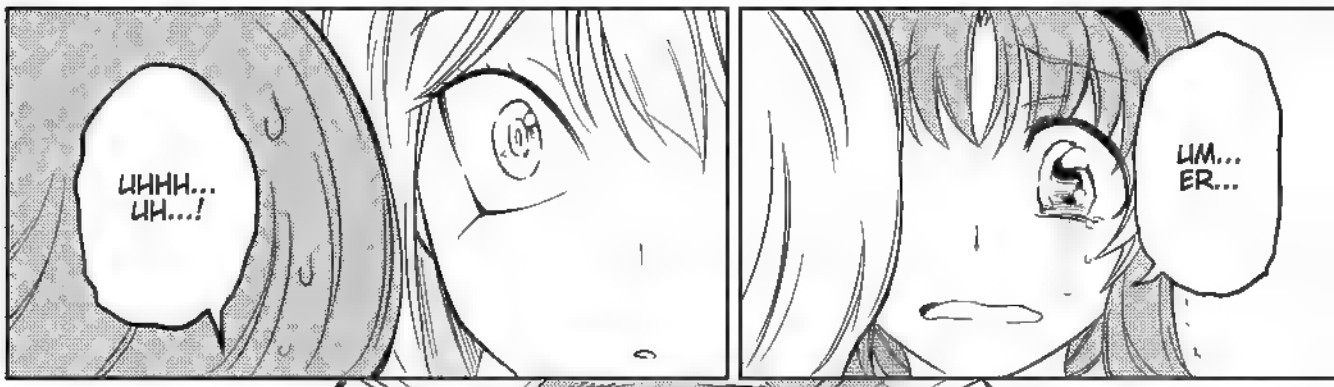
I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT. AS THE FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT...
I WANT YOU TO, LIKE, ABOLISH THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP). 'KAY?
HELL NO.
THAT WAS QUICK!!

WILL YOU, LIKE, STOP USING THE STUDENT COUNCIL AS YOUR PERSONAL TOY TO MAKE DUMB CLUBS?
STUPID AND CRAZY? WHICH ONE OF US DOES THAT DESCRIBE, HMMM?
OH, RIGHT. WE'VE HAVE DONE SOME PRETTY CRAZY/ STUPID STUFF.
HOW ELSE SHOULD YOU RESPOND TO A CRAZY, STUPID DEMAND LIKE THAT?
YOU'VE GOT A POINT.


IT'S MOSTLY ME DOING WHAT-EVER'S NECES-SARY TO KEEP THINGS GOING.
THERE, SEE?! ATARU'S DOING ALL THE WORK!
WHAT, REALLY ?! YOU?!
HEY! I'M RUNNING THE STUDENT COUNCIL LIKE A PERFECTLY NORMAL, PROPER ORGANI-ZATION!

HM?
SO, LIKE, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
.....
COSMIC DIRTY MAGA-ZINE...?
DON'T ASK! PLEASE... JUST DON'T ASK!!
WHY, NOT LONG AGO WE EVEN MADE A GAME: "COSMIC DIRTY MAGAZINE SMUG-GLER"!
B-BUT, TAMA-SEMPAI... W-WE ARE DOING REAL PROPER CLUB ACTIVITIES.

YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN OF THE REAL GAME DEV. CLUB, RIGHT?
LEAN
ARE YOU OKAY WITH A KNOCK-OFF CLUB FULL OF IDIOTS RUNNING AROUND?


UM... ER...
UHHH... UH...!

I-I THINK HAVING A RIVAL CLUB PUSHES US TO WORK EVEN HARDER!
SO I'M OKAY WITH THEM!!

MEANWHILE, AT THE (REAL) GAME DEV. CLUB...
YOU KNOW, THE CAPTAIN HASN'T COME BY IN A WHILE.
.....
TAKKA
TAKKA
TAKKA

IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH US, JUST TELL US STRAIGHT UP!
WE'LL TAKE YOU ON!
QUIT DRAGGING OUTSIDERS INTO THIS.
THE CLUB IS THE PRIZE.
BUT WE PICK THE GAME. GOT IT?
LIKE, TOTALLY.

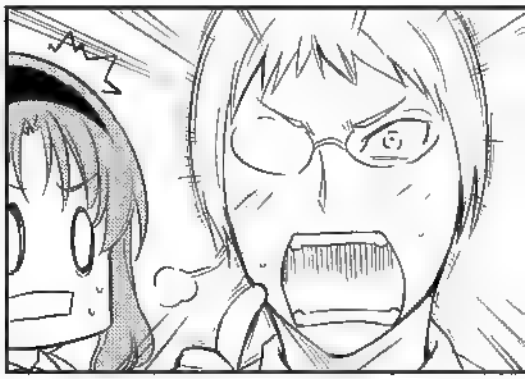
YOU PLAYED RIGHT INTO HER HANDS!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU JUST DID? IF WE LOSE, OUR CLUB'S GONE!
Gah! Get off!!
OW !!
WHO DIED AND MADE YOU KING?!

DOESN'T THAT PISS YOU OFF, TOO?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? THAT EX-PREZ IS BOSSING YOU AROUND HOWEVER SHE WANTS ...
And you're pissing me off too!
I HAD TO DO SOME-THING! SITTING HERE AND LISTENING TO THEM WAS PISSING ME OFF!

NO! NO WAY!!
SOMEONE GO TO OUR CLUB ROOM AND GET "COSMIC DIRTY MAG SMUGGLER"!
When she takes one look at that, she'll...
YOU'RE BARELY A PART OF THIS CLUB!
I WANT HER TO RECOGNIZE US AND ALL WE'VE ACCOM-PLISHED!
IT ISN'T VERY NICE, IS IT?
YEAH. IT DOES.

IF YOU CAN GET THEM TO FIGHT YOU ON YOUR OWN TURF, YOU'RE INVINCIBLE. RIGHT?
BE-SIDES ...
WITH YOU GUYS ...
THAT'S RIGHT.

ANY-HOO, I'M, LIKE, TOTALLY OKAY WITH THE CHALLENGE, BUT WE'VE ONLY GOT THREE...I MEAN FOUR PEOPLE.
YOU'VE GOT A NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE, Y'KNOW. WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT?
YOU TOTALLY JUST SAID THREE! YOU FORGOT ABOUT ME, DIDN'T YOU ?!
HUH. MR. PRINCESS PINCH IS ACTUALLY KINDA COOL.
WHEN IT MATTERS MOST, KAZAMA-SAN PULLS THROUGH! MOST OF THE TIME HE'S PRINCESS PINCH, THOUGH.
RIGHT, WHEN WE WIN THIS CHALLENGE, I'M FOR-BIDDING ANYONE FROM EVER USING THAT NICKNAME EVER AGAIN!



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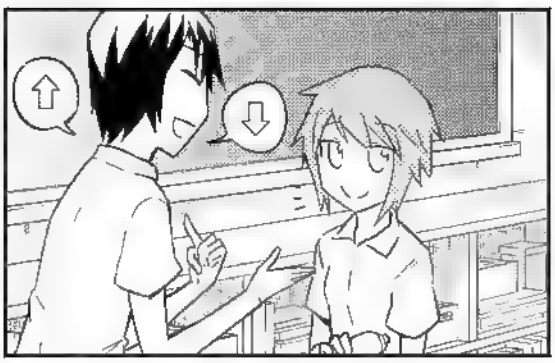
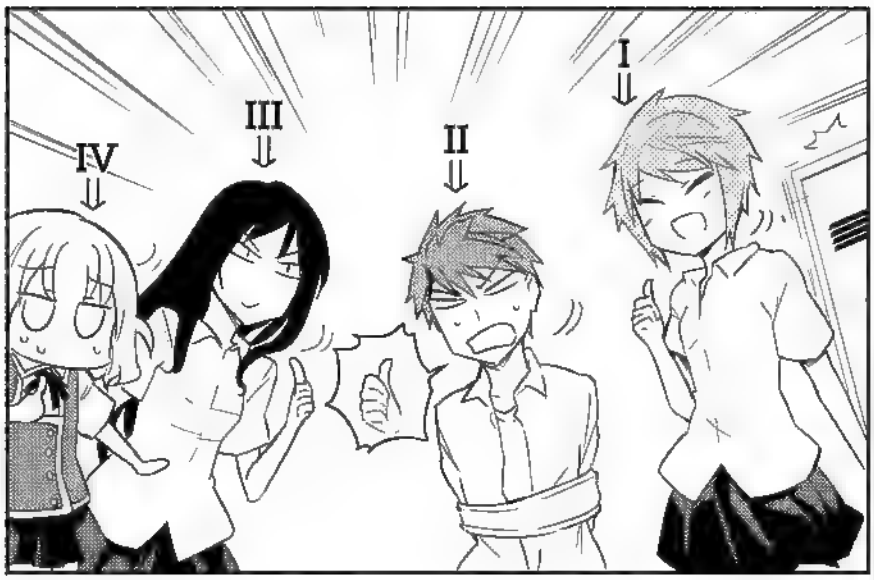
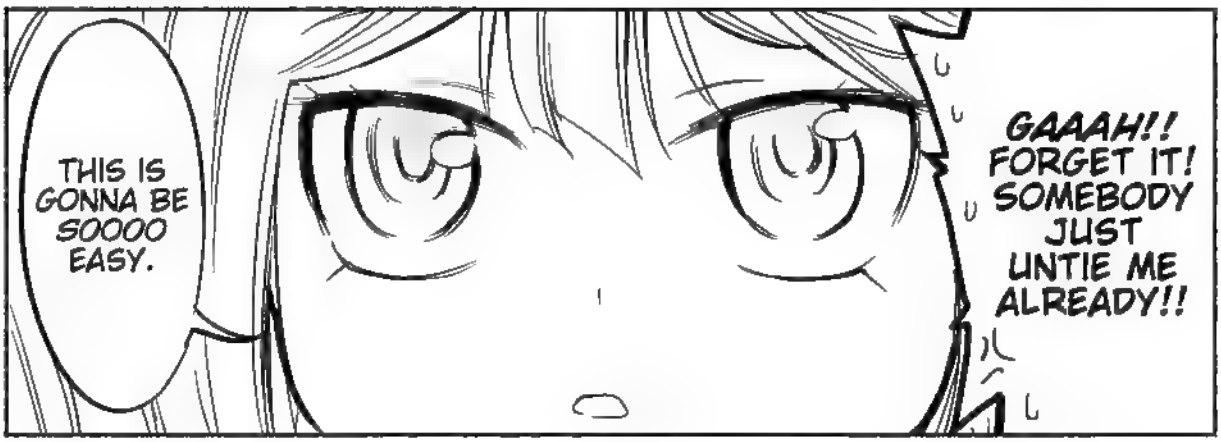



I
II
III
IV

SO WHAT'S THE GAME GOING TO BE?
OKIE-DOKE...
COSMIC DIRTY MAGAZINE SMUGGLER

WH-WHAT?! THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME!
YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE A BETTER IDEA THAN THEM!!
CAP-TAIN! ♪
ENOUGH OF THIS CRAP! CAPTAIN, STOP TWIDDLING YOUR THUMBS AND DO SOME-THING ABOUT THIS!!
CAP-TAIN!!


THIS IS GONNA BE SOOOO EASY.
GAAAH!! FORGET IT! SOMEBODY JUST UNTIE ME ALREADY!!

Aah... Isn't this close, cramped darkness just so soothing?
RATL KLANG RATL KLANG
Lemme out! It's dark in here!!
What?! Oh god, help me!! Don't leave me in here with him!!

D-FRAGMENTS ディーふらぐ！

OKAY, I GET IT.
SO THE OBJECTIVE IS TO SWIPE THE OTHER TEAMS' CELL-PHONES AND THEN SEND A TEXT CONTAINING A SPECIFIC KEYWORD TO THE JUDGE. WHOEVER GETS 'EM ALL FIRST WINS.
Which is better, smooth or crunchy peanut butter?
EASY-PEASEY-CHEDDAR-CHEESY!
THE FIELD OF PLAY IS THE WHOLE SCHOOL. AS LONG AS YOU'RE ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, YOU'RE FAIR GAME.
WE'RE READY.
THERE ARE NO OTHER RULES. BLACKMAIL, THREATS, VIOLENCE... IT'S ALL GOOD!
WELL, AREN'T YOU A VICIOUS ONE. ♪
YES! FINALLY, OUR CLUB HAS STEPPED INTO THE DIGITAL AGE!
Oooh!
THE "DIGITAL AGE"? HOW IS THIS...? NO, FORGET IT.

CONGRATS ON 3 FULL YEARS, D-FRAG!
AND THE ONE CALLED TO BE THE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUDGE IS NONE OTHER THAN ME, FIFTY-FIFTY FUJISAKI!
HUH?! WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

Chapter 33
You Can't Crack a Diamond

※This chapter was published in the November 2011 issue of Monthly Comic Alive, marking the series' three-year anniversary.

KAZAMA-SAN, WHEN YOU (LITERALLY) KICKED ME OUT OF THE BAG TOURNAMENT I REALIZED I NEEDED TO WORK HARDER TO REALLY LIVE A FAIR, 50% LIFE. THANK YOU.
HUH? REALLY ?
SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
See Volume 3, Chapter 19.

AH, YES. THE MAN WHO HAS LIVED ALMOST ALL OF HIS LIFE ON THE FENCE. EVEN WE THIRD-YEARS HAVE HEARD ABOUT HIM. HE'LL BE A FAIR JUDGE.
WHAT, THIS GUY IS FAMOUS ?!

HOW COME EVERYONE MAKES IT SOUND LIKE THE TEMP CLUB DID?
WELL, ONE THING ISN'T FAIR. I'M THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THIS GAME.
ANYWAY, I PROMISE TO BE A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUDGE, TO WEIGH BOTH SIDES EQUALLY AND--
OKAY! OKAY! I GET IT, YOU'RE FAIR! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
UH-HUH. LIKE, IT'S JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT A REAL GAME CLUB CAPTAIN TO THINK UP.
YEAH. THIS IS A GOOD BUT CHAL-LENGING GAME.
Um... I...
HUH?
Wait, why is she still here?
HUH? NO ONE THINKS THAT. YOU CAME UP WITH A GOOD, SOLID IDEA FOR US, LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO. THANKS.
Uh . excuse us?
HEY !
AND THE BEST PART ABOUT IT IS THAT WE CAN GO ALL OUT!!

WAIT A MINUTE! I JUST WANTED TO COME UP WITH A FUN, FRIENDLY GAME! LIKE TAG!!
Don't do anything dangerous or mean!
REAL-LY?
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL PLAY NICE.
YEAH. WE'LL PLAY FAIR AND SQUARE.
OH NO!

ANYWAY, MOVING ON. IF THE THIRD-YEARS MANAGE TO WIN, THE GAME DEV. (TEMP) CLUB WILL BE ABOLISHED.
BUT WHAT IF WE WIN? THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME KIND OF PRIZE FOR US.

UMM... HOW 'BOUT I GIVE YOU 10,000 YEN?
How's that sound?
DO YOU MEAN THE 10,000 YEN THAT I FOUND FOR YOU?! I THOUGHT THAT WAS A "PRECIOUS GIFT" FROM YOUR GRANDPA!
WHAT-EVER. IT'S JUST MONEY.
BESIDES, I HAVEN'T EVEN GONE IN TO CLAIM IT YET.
GO! GO GET IT NOW! DO AT LEAST THAT MUCH FOR YOUR GRANDPA!

WE PUT THE WHOLE CLUB ON THE LINE!
Think bigger!!
WAIT, YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?!
WOO-HOO!!
YAY! A WHOLE 10,000 YEN!

OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU 40,000 YEN!
AND SHE FELL FOR IT...

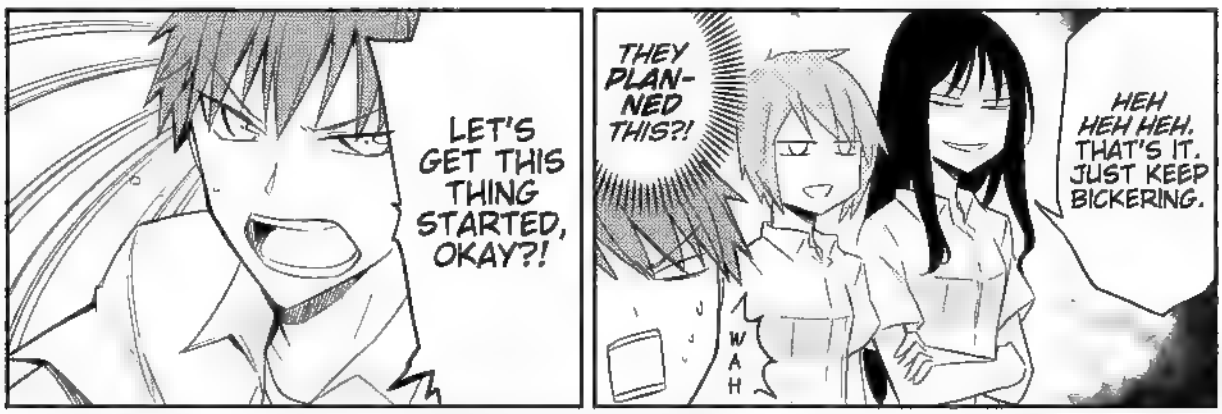
DON'T GET SO COCKY!
THE MONEY'S JUST A BONUS. THE REAL REWARD WILL BE THE LOOKS OF DISAPPOINT-MENT ON THEIR FACES WHEN WE BEAT THEM.

Sorry!
I DID A LOT OF PART-TIME WORK, BUT I NEVER GOT PAID...
NO ONE CARES, BARFIE.
WHA ?!

GO RETURN IT!
ME TOO. I BUSTED THE BANK BUYING A LIMITED EDITION ANIME BOX SET THIS MONTH.
CAN'T. I'VE ALREADY OPENED IT, AND I USE THE BODY PILLOW THAT CAME WITH IT, LIKE, EVERY NIGHT.
EEK!
SELL IT TO A SECOND-HAND SHOP!

WAIT... WILL EACH OF US HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE 10,000 YEN? I'M BROKE THIS MONTH.
UH...

FINE! WHATEVER!
YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY EXPECT US TO CHIP IN, DO YOU?!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND!
'Kay?
SOOO... HOW ABOUT 30,000 YEN?


LET'S GET THIS THING STARTED, OKAY?!
THEY PLANNED THIS?!
WAH
HEH HEH HEH. THAT'S IT. JUST KEEP BICKERING.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE'RE EXCHANGING PHONE NUMBERS. DUH.
OH, UH... RIGHT.
WE GOTTA SEND MESSAGES FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S PHONES FOR THE GAME, Y'KNOW.
.....
There. You got it?
Yep! My turn!

HAMADAYAMA
TOFU NAKAMISE
FIRE AFFINITY
HONOLULU PIZZA
HOLY CRAP, WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN ?!
COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE USED YOUR REAL NAMES ?!
OH, BY THE WAY, WE ALL PUT OUR NUMBERS IN YOUR PHONE ALREADY.
WHAT ?!
YOU, UM... ALREADY HAVE MY NUMBER, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
OH, LIKE, I TOTALLY PUT ALL OUR NUMBERS IN YOUR PHONE, TOO.
While you were out cold.
YOU GUYS TOO?! LEAVE MY PHONE ALONE!!
GET READY EVERYONE, FOR THE FIRST EVER GAME OF PHONE TAG!!
TP
TP
TP
IS THAT WE'RE CALLING IT?
ALL RIGHT, LOOK ALIVE, PEOPLE! THE GAME WILL BEGIN IN TEN MINUTES, SO TAKE THIS TIME TO GO OUT AND FIND GOOD HIDING PLACES AND/OR AMBUSH SPOTS, OKAY?
WHO PUT YOU IN CHARGE ?!
CLAP CLAP

HUH?

I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT... TAKE CARE OF ROKA FOR ME, OKAY?

WHAT'RE YOU STANDING AROUND FOR? LET'S GO!
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE.

SLIIDe
WHAT THE--?! WHAT'S WRONG ?!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU ...?
THUD

TURNS OUT IT WAS A CALCULATED MOVE TO SAP THE STRENGTH OF ONE OF OUR STAR PLAYERS!
I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD THAT THE EX PREZ OVER THERE HELD ON TO ROKA-SEMPAI FOR SO LONG.
I stalled as long as I could..
LOOKS LIKE SHE DIDN'T RECOVER IN TIME.
HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HMM~?
EH?
THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE I NEED TO DO.
SO LIKE I SAID, YOU HAVE TO PROTECT ROKA NOW.
WHY ME?!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?!

OOH. SO, LIKE, I DON'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE? LUCKY~! ♪
I'M GOING TO SHUT DOWN THOSE PIGTAILS, RIGHT HERE AND NOW!
!!

NO, NOT THIS TIME.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN RELE-GATED TO BIT PARTS.

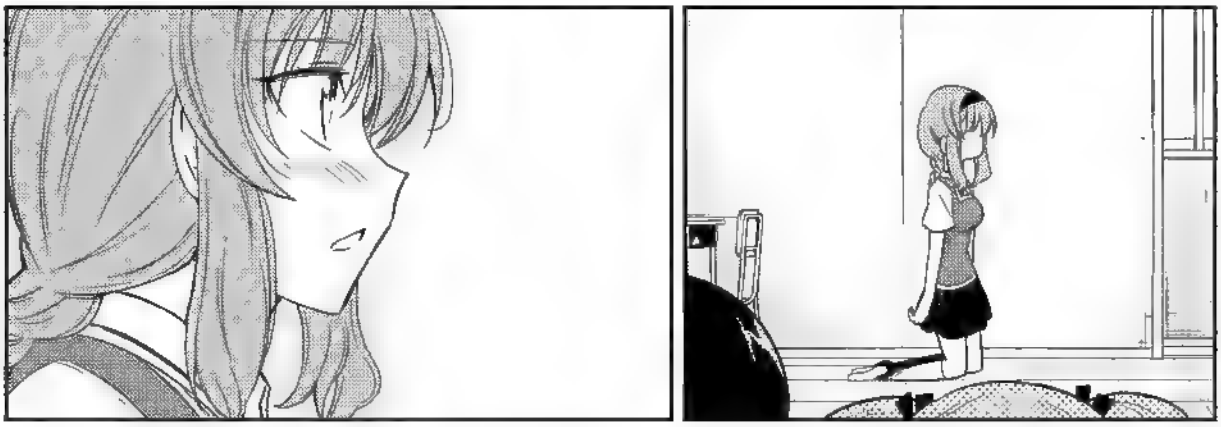
.....
No, whad'joo say?!
No, what di'joo-say?
joo-say!
Juicy!
No, like, what'd you just say?
What'd you just say?!

BUT YOU'RE STILL WEAK...

REALLY ...?
IN THE END, WE SHALL GET THE JUICIEST PART OF ALL.

③ Princess Carry
Recovery Rate 50% ⬆ Boost.
② Airplane
Recovery Rate 30% ⬇ Drop.
① Piggyback
Recovery Rate 10% ⬆ Boost.
OH, IN REGARD TO THAT, I HAVE A SUGGESTION. YOU SEE, DEPENDING ON WHICH OF THE AVAILABLE WAYS YOU CHOOSE TO CARRY ME, MY RECOVERY RATE WILL CHANGE.
Princess Carry ?!
PERSONALLY, I SUGGEST OPTION NUMBER 3, THE PRINCESS CARRY. THAT'S CLEARLY THE BEST OPTION!
NO WAY! OPTION NUMBER 1! YOU'LL GET A PIGGY-BACK OR YOU'LL GET NOTHING !!
KAZAMA-SAN, DO YOU EVEN WANT TO WIN THIS GAME?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HUH?! ARE YOU EVEN TRYING?! DON'T GIVE ME THOSE SCARY EYES!!
Sigh...
IF THIS DOESN'T ACTUALLY HELP YOU RECOVER FAST, I'M CHUCKING YOU OUT THE NEAREST WINDOW!!
BAAAAAAN

HM. THIS DOESN'T FEEL BAD AT ALL. IN FACT, I'D BE QUITE HAPPY IF I COULD LIVE IN THIS MOMENT FOREVER.
WELL, DON'T YOU LOOK COSY! ARE YOU EVEN ACTUALLY HURT?!
Yes, yes I am.



NO...! ONE-HEART-BROKEN MAIDEN HAS BEEN LEFT ON THE BATTLEFIELD!
GAWD, POOR-THING! I ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR-HER~!

BUT NOT REALLY.
WE'RE STILL GONNA GO ALL OUT!
NOT YET! THERE'S STILL FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE GAME BEGINS.

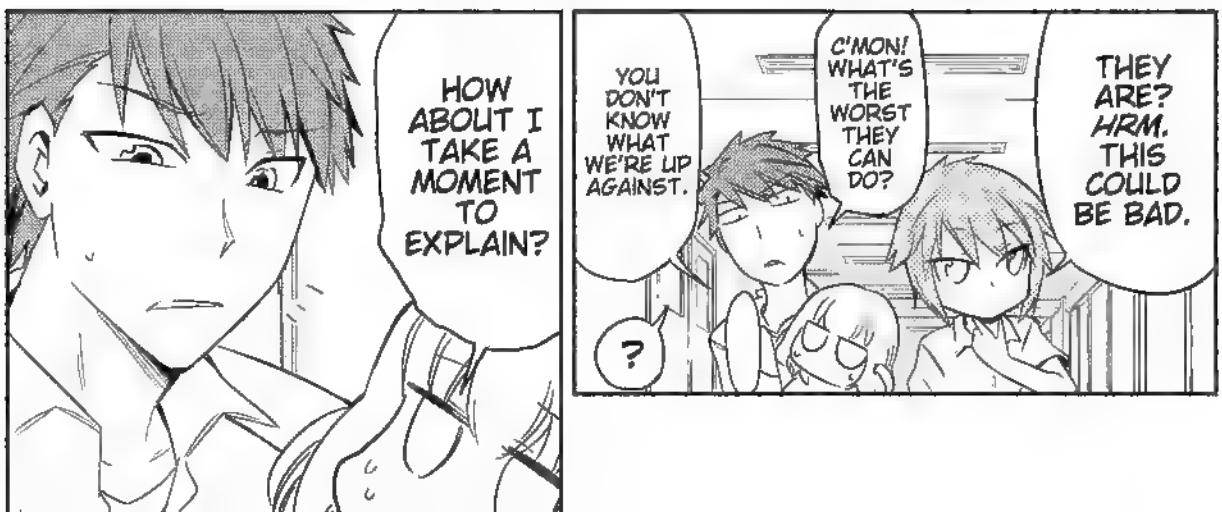
ALL RIGHT. IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINALLY MY TURN.
HUH?! WHY NOW?!

AH!
Hnn... Zzz...

GOD, IT'S HARD TO RUN LIKE THIS.
GO, KAZAMA-SAN! YOU CAN DO IT! ♪
SHAD-DAP!!

RIGHT NOW, THE PREZ IS TAKING CARE OF THE BIGGEST THREAT ON THE OTHER TEAM, RIGHT?
SO, EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT MS. DEADWEIGHT HERE, SHOULDN'T THE TWO OF US BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE OTHERS?
IT MAY NOT BE SO EASY.
FOR NOW, LET'S TRY TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE WHILE ROKA-SEMPAI RECOVERS.
ABOUT THAT...

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL ARE EXCEPTIONALLY POWERFUL.
REALLY? THEY DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH.


THEY ARE? HRM. THIS COULD BE BAD.
C'MON! WHAT'S THE WORST THEY CAN DO?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.
?
HOW ABOUT I TAKE A MOMENT TO EXPLAIN?

AZUMA MATSUBARA-SEMPAI, FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL TREASURER. SHE HAS PERFECT GRADES, IS AN EXCELLENT ATHLETE, AND IS WELL SPOKEN AND POLITE.
NEE-SAN!
THE MOST TALENTED PERSON TO EVER ATTEND THIS SCHOOL, SHE IS LOVED AND PRAISED BY BOTH STUDENTS AND FACULTY.
NEE-SAN!
WHAT, SERIOUSLY? I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS THAT INCREDIBLE.
NAGANUMA-SEMPAI, FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT. AN AVID AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ANIME FAN, HE BOASTS THAT HE WATCHES ALL THE LATE NIGHT SHOWS AS THEY AIR.
A SIDE BENEFIT IS THAT, SINCE HE ALWAYS HAS HIS EYES CLOSED, TEACHERS CAN'T TELL IF HE'S SLEEPING IN CLASS.
THANKS TO THE RESULTING LACK OF SLEEP AND EYE-STRAIN, HE SPENDS ALL DAY WITH HIS EYES MOSTLY OR ALL THE WAY CLOSED.
THAT'S WHY HE KEEPS HIS EYES CLOSED ALL THE TIME?! HE SOUNDS LIKE JUST ANOTHER USELESS ANIME NERD!
SHINSEN-SEMPAI, ALSO KNOWN AS "BARFIE-SEMPAI," FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY. ACCORDING TO RUMOR, THE ACID SHE SPEWS FROM HER MOUTH WILL MELT THROUGH ANYTHING... OR IT COULD JUST BE COMMON BILE. EITHER WAY, GROSS.
HOLD ON, THAT PICTURE CAN'T BE RIGHT! YOU'VE GOT THE TWO SWAPPED! TELL ME THEY'RE JUST BACKWARDS, OR WE HAVE A REALLY BIG PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS!!
ANYWAY! FROM THE SOUND OF IT, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE ALL OF THEM EXCEPT FOR MATSU-BARA-SEMPAI.
BA-BAAA!
FIRE ARCHER~!!
OH, THE TEN MINUTES ARE UP.

WHA?
THEN LET'S BEGIN.
OH?

BAM

THIS IS BAD. I WAS HOPING THAT I'D HAVE RECOVERED BY NOW SO I COULD HELP CHITOSE!
HUH? YOU WANNA GO BACK?
GRRR-

IT WAS NO TROU-BLE AT ALL.

SPEAKING UP BEFORE YOU ATTACKED WAS AWFULLY CONSIDERATE, SEMPAI.

I'M AFRAID GETTING THERE MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT!
SE-RIOUS-LY?!
Pushy-pushy!
SHOVE
TAMA-SEMPAI IS TOO MUCH FOR CHITOSE TO FIGHT ALONE. SHE NEEDS ME!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?!
KRIK
NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT I ONLY EVER GO EASY ON ANIME CHARACTERS AND PEOPLE THAT SOUND LIKE POPULAR VOICE ACTORS.
!!
OUN
YOU SEE, ALL OF YOU ARE ABOUT TO LOSE.
THEN JUST STAY OUT OF OUR WAY!!
You sound kinda like that one... or maybe that other one...
AND, UNFORTUNATELY FOR ME, YOUR VOICES DO SOUND LIKE POPULAR VOICE ACTORS! THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED FLAW IN MY PLAN!
AND WHY ARE YOU TWO TAKING IT AS A COMPLIMENT?!
You flatter us.
Oh, you're too kind.

.....
HUNH. YOU'RE, LIKE, TOUGHER THAN I EXPECTED.
OR, LIKE, ATARU-CHAN IS ANYWAY...
.....
YEAH, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR ATARU-CHAN SHIELD IS ABOUT READY TO CRACK.
He's, like, so totally messed up.
WELL, YOU CAN'T MAKE AN OMELET WITHOUT BREAKING A FEW EGGS.
You know what they say...
UM, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A 4-ON-4 GAME, RIGHT? IS THAT LEGAL?
WELL, HE'S BEING USED AS AN ITEM INSTEAD OF AS A PERSON, SO...
I'LL ALLOW IT!!

WAK
WAK
WAK
WAK
WAK

D-FRAGMENTS ディーふらぐ！

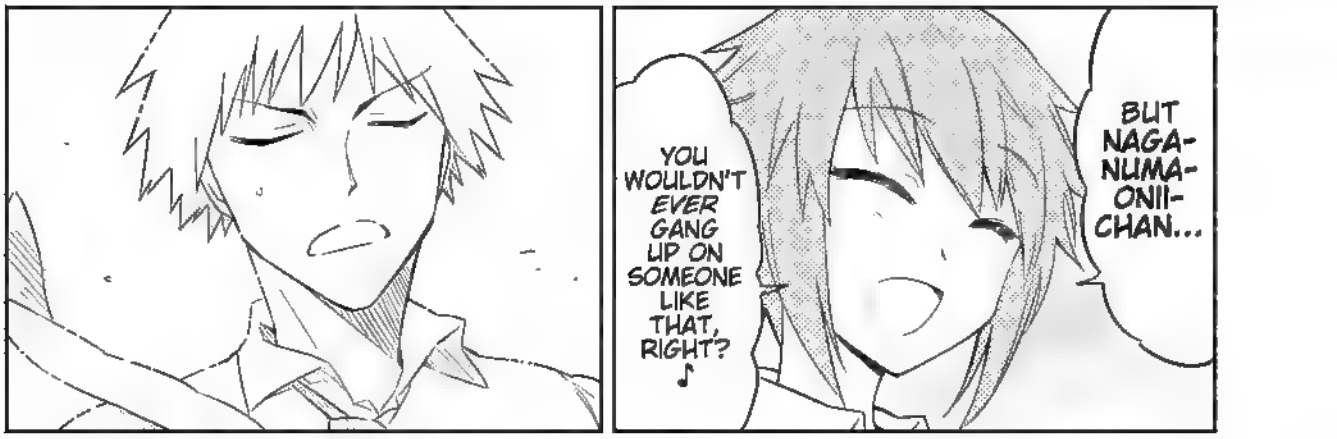
WAK
WAK
WAK
WAK
WAK
THWAP
WSH
NOT BAD !!
Tch!
That was close!
WAD
AUGH!
.....
WAK
WAK
WAK
WAK
MUTTER
SHE'S JUST A GIRL ...
NOT AN ANIME CHARACTER.
MUTTER
I HAVE TO BLOCK HER OUT...
MUTTER

Chapter 34
He's Betting That?!

AND BESIDES, IF YOU WERE TO ATTEMPT TO GET NAGANUMA-SEMPAI'S PHONE, THAT MEANS YOU'D HAVE TO PUT ME DOWN! THAT MUST BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS!
You mustn't!
WHAT, PUT YOU DOWN? SURE THING!

I MEAN, MY ARMS ARE KILLING ME!
OH NO!
BUT WE'VE JUST STARTED! ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M SO HEAVY YOUR ARMS ARE GOING TO FALL OFF? THAT'S SO CRUEL!
GIMME A BREAK! I'VE BEEN CARRYING YOU FOR OVER TEN MINUTES NOW!!
GOODNESS! MAKING COMMENTS ABOUT A GIRL'S WEIGHT. THAT'S VERY RUDE, YOUNG MAN!
AND NOW I'M GETTING LECTURED BY SOMEONE IN THE MIDDLE OF A VICIOUS BATTLE?!
IS SEMPAI REALLY THAT HEAVY?
WHO WAS HEAVIER, HER OR ME?
GRIN
HUH?! ARE YOU STILL HOLDING A GRUDGE 'CAUSE I SAID YOU WERE HEAVY DURING THE GREAT WATER RACE?!
DON'T BE STUPID! GIRLS ARE ALWAYS LIGHT!!
Some only weigh as much as a sheet of paper!
THOSE AREN'T "REAL" GIRLS, YOU IDIOT!
KAZAMA-SAN, THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR YOUR SNAPPY COME-BACKS!
I can't believe you!
GA AA AH !!
WHY YOU-- !!!!!

NOW IT'S TWO VERSUS ONE!
HA! THAT FOOL LEFT HIS TEAM-MATE BEHIND ALONE!
!!
TP
SCREW THIS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
DASH


BUT NAGA-NUMA-ONII-CHAN...
YOU WOULDN'T EVER GANG UP ON SOMEONE LIKE THAT, RIGHT? ♪

AND NOW THE OTHER TWO ARE COMING AFTER US... WHILE STILL FIGHTING!!
WAS
WAS
WAS
GIMME A BREAK ALREADY !!
HOLY CRAP! THIS GUY MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE STANDARDS !!
RIGHT! YOUR ONII-CHAN ALWAYS FIGHTS HIS TRUE OPPO-NENT FAIR AND SQUARE !!

IT IS TIME TO BEGIN THE COUNTER-ATTACK!
!!
AH, BUT THIS HAS SHOWN ME WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT!

HUNH. I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS TO BE A PLAN TO FREE ME UP...
FIRST, WE MUST FORCE THEM TO SPLIT UP LIKE SO!!!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. HE WOULD BEAT THE STUFFING OUT OF YOU.
IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU COULD TAKE ON NAGANUMA-SEMPAI AND EMERGE UNSCATHED...
NO. AGAINST ME, NAGANUMA-SEMPAI IS UNLIKELY TO TRY ANY-THING TOO EXTREME.
YOU REALLY THINK I SUCK THAT MUCH?!

SHOULDN'T WE BE GET YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE? I CAN TAKE ON NAGANUMA-SEMPAI.
HRM...

GRRR
GRRR
GRRR
GRRR
WHAT, THAT THING?!
I NEED YOU TO SOMEHOW DISABLE HER BAG BREAKER DEFENSE.
!!
BESIDES, I WOULD RATHER YOU HURRY TO CHITOSE'S SIDE AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT TAMA-SEMPAI.

MY WHAT?!
YOU WILL JUST HAVE TO DODGE HIM WITH YOUR SECRET MOVE!
NAGA-NUMA-SEMPAI IS PROBABLY GOING TO MAKE A BEELINE RIGHT FOR ME.
SO HOW DO WE SPLIT THESE GUYS UP?
OKAY ...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS.
BUT...

HM?
AHA, YOU TWO SPLIT UP. THAT MAKES THINGS EASIER ON ME!

I WOULDN'T UNDER-ESTIMATE KAZAMA-SAN, IF I WERE YOU.
UH, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOT NO FAITH IN ME.
PLEASE! I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, SENSEI!!
SHADDAP! ALL I'VE GOTTA DO IS RUN AWAY, RIGHT?!

HA! DON'T THINK I WILL LET YOU GET AWAY THAT EASILY!!

AH, BUT IF HE USES HIS SECRET MOVE...
YOU CAN'T STOP HIM.

TMP

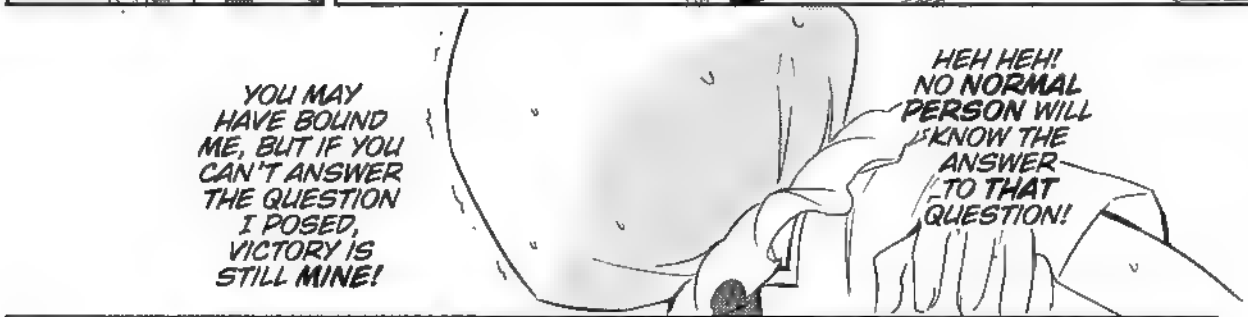
GRAB
NNGH!
HUFF
THERE! DID YOU SEE IT?! THAT IS KAZAMA-SAN'S SECRET MOVE THAT DEFEATED EVEN ME!
THE VERTICAL LEAP!!

THAT'S HIS "SECRET MOVE"?
KAZAMA KENJI MASTER OF THE SECRET MOVE: VERTICAL LEAP
THAT'S A "SECRET MOVE" ?!
YO, DUDE! YOU'VE GOT SOME SERIOUSLY MAD HOPS, FOR REALZ!
!
I FEEL SO STUPID NOW...
BASKETBALL CLUB HIGASHIGAWA KIYOSHI 6'0" (INCLUDES 11" OF HEIGHT FROM HAIR)
MAN, JUST WALK DOWN THE HALLWAY AND LOOK WHAT'CHA FIND!
YOU NEED TO JOIN THE BASKET-BALL CLUB, MY MAN!
WHAT THE HELL ?!!
BASKETBALL CLUB KISARAZU MA'KUTA 6'0"~6'6" (INCLUDES 9"~13" OF HEIGHT FROM HAIR)
BASKETBALL CLUB KAMEYAMAGAMI SOU 5'10" (INCLUDES 10" OF HEIGHT FROM HAIR)
PG

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
WHY THE HELL ARE THEY CHASING ME WHILE DRIBBLING?! DO THEY THINK THAT'LL MAKE ME WANT TO JOIN?!
BAM
BAM
BAM
SO YEAH, IT'S GONNA TAKE ME SOME TIME TO LOSE THESE BASKET-BALL JERKS!
I THINK I'LL PASS, THANK YOU. I'D RATHER NOT EXPOSE MY BACK TO YOU.
Nah, I'd never catch up.
AREN'T YOU GONNA CHASE HIM?
You could make that jump?! No way!
YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE UP MY SKIRT.
BESIDES, IF I JUMPED UP THERE...
Uh, you're both girls, right...?
YEAH, SAME FOR ME.

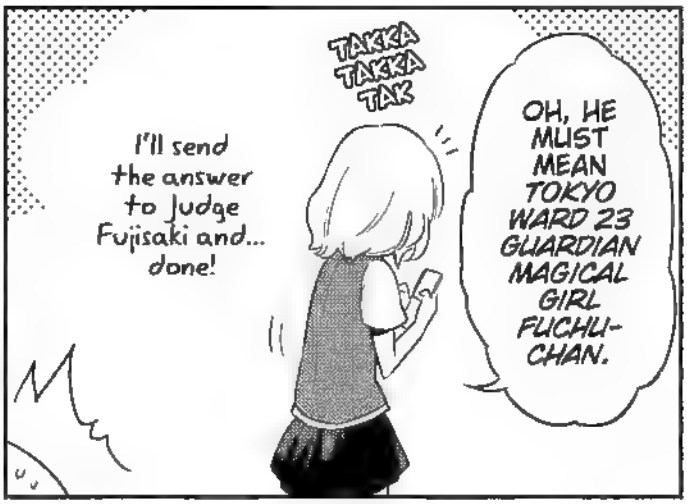
SWISH
MFPH!
I GUESS I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND ANYMORE. SORRY, I KNOW YOU'RE INJURED, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GO...
YOU'RE A SCARY LITTLE GIRL!
SO WHAT SAY WE FINALLY GET SERIOUS?
MWA-HAA-AAH?!!!
AH?
ACTUALLY, I'M COMPLETELY RECOVERED.
And I have your cell phone now.

What is the title of the magical girl anime that takes place outside of Tokyo's 23rd Ward?


YOU MAY HAVE BOUND ME, BUT IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION I POSED, VICTORY IS STILL MINE!
HEH HEH! NO NORMAL PERSON WILL KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LEFT THAT BIG A HINT RIGHT THERE! PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT THE WALLPAPER!!
WAIT... I JUST REMEMBERED THAT MY PHONE'S WALLPAPER IS FUCHU-CHAN, THE MAIN CHARACTER OF "TOKYO WARD 23 GUARDIAN MAGICAL GIRL FUCHU-CHAN"!

THONK
SHE KNEW IT ANY-WAY!!
NAGANUMA: ELIMINATED


I'll send the answer to Judge Fujisaki and... done!
TAKKA TAKKA TAK
OH, HE MUST MEAN TOKYO WARD 23 GUARDIAN MAGICAL GIRL FUCHU-CHAN.

WELL, THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG! I KNEW YOU WERE ALREADY RECOVERED!!
BAM
SO WE'VE DEFEATED NAGANUMA-SEMPAI, AT LEAST.
BAM

PLEASE HURRY TO CHITOSE. YOU'RE HER ONLY HOPE!
SURE, I'D LOVE TOO, BUT I'VE GOT MY OWN CRAP TO DEAL WITH HERE.
BAM
KAZAMA-SAN, YOU ARE USE-LESS.
.....
Hey !!

NOW THEN.
BIP

MY, MY... WHAT SCARY LITTLE GIRLS.
KRIK
SHALL WE BEGIN?

BEEEP
BEEEP
BAM
BAM
BAM

KLUNK
AND MORE LIKE A ONE-SIDED BEAT-DOWN.

BIP
HELLO? EARTH GIRL, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
BAM
HUH?! LIKE, WHAT'S THAT BANGING NOISE IN THE BACK-GROUND?!

HM? SPEAKER PHONE?
SURE, OKAY...

I'M SHOCKED, TO BE HONEST. I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYONE IN THIS WHOLE SCHOOL WHO COULD BEAT YOU.
I KNOW TAMA-SEMPAI IS A TOUGHER CHICK THAN WE EXPECTED...
IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE OVER THERE, LISTEN!
BAM

ANYWAYS, THE REST OF US WILL FIGURE SOME-THING OUT.
RUN AWAY, BOW OUT, WHATEVER... NO ONE'S GONNA THINK ANY LESS OF YOU.
BAM

I GUESS, IF YOU LOSE, IT'LL BE MY FAULT FOR EGGING YOU ON IN THE FIRST PLACE. SORRY.
AWWW... I WISH HE'D CALL ME "TAMA-CHAN" AGAIN!
BAM

UGH! BAM BAM, BLAH BLAH...
DO YOU EVER SHUT UP?
QUIT YER YAPPING AND GET YOUR BUTT OVER HERE, SHIELD #2!
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, I'LL FINISH HER ON MY OWN!!
Seriously, what is that banging noise in the background?!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
Shield #1
What happened do the first one?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SHIELD #2"?
SWIPE
YOU PIG-TAILED AIR-HEAD.
HA! SHOWS WHAT YOU KNOW ...
WHIRL
WHIRL
WHIRL
UH, ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD, LIKE, STAND UP?
YOU'RE TOTALLY ON THE ROPES.

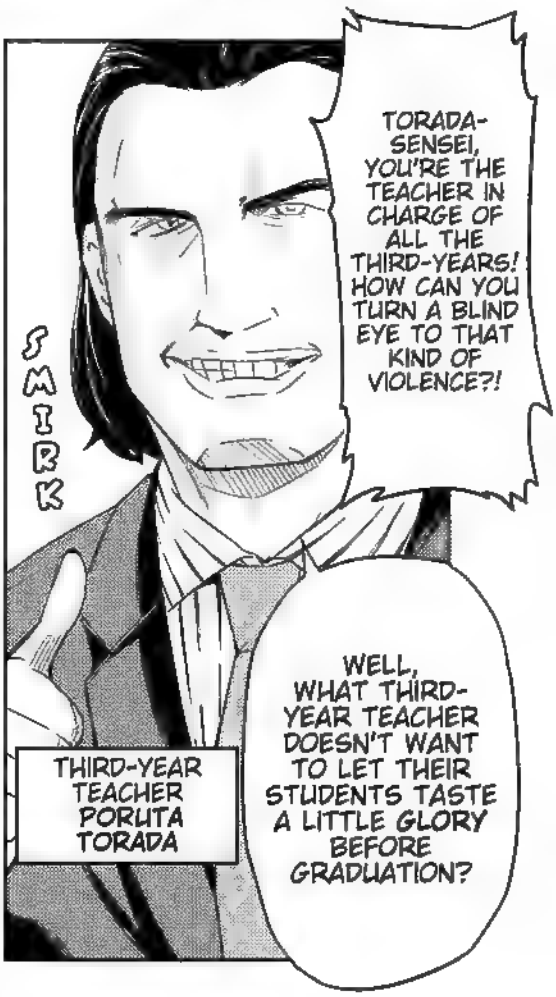
I'M JUST GETTING STARTED.
SO YOU'VE, LIKE, GOT A PONYTAIL NOW. BIG WHOOP!
.....
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'LL BEAT THE POWER OF MY PIGTAILS?
HOLD UP! THIS FIGHT'S ABOUT MORE THAN JUST HAIR-STYLES!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Identity Crisis? Mid-life crisis? Crisis on Infinite Earths?
HUH?! I CAN FEEL A MAJOR CRISIS BUILDING UP SOMEWHERE...!
HEH HEH HEH... YOU'RE A SHARP ONE, OHSAWA-SENSEI.
?!

HAH!!

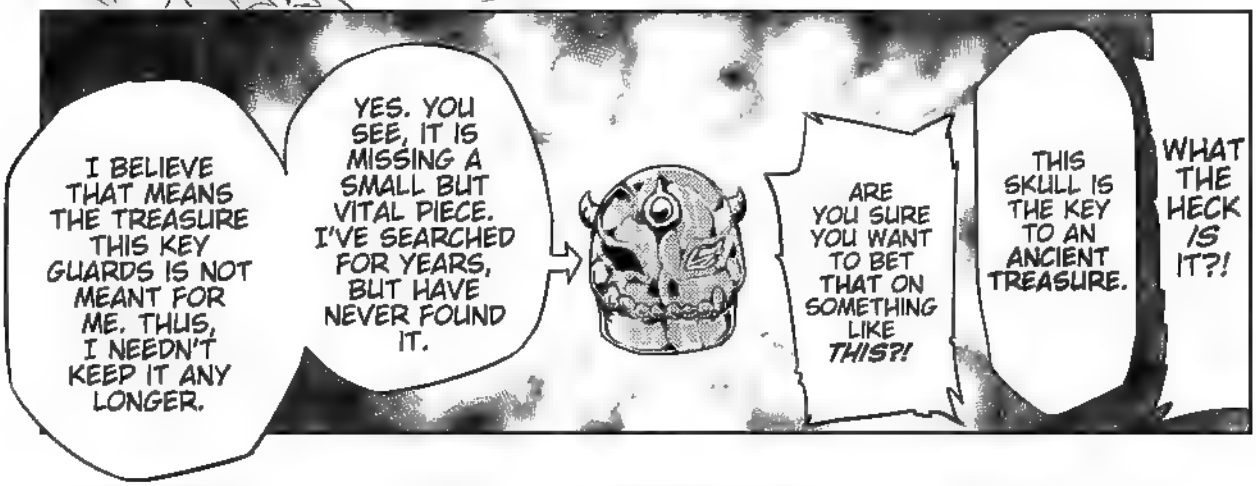
WHAT ?!
I BELIEVE THE THIRD-YEAR FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE BATTLING THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP) RIGHT AS WE SPEAK.

OHSAWA-SENSEI! YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE BETS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES! ESPECIALLY NOT ABOUT YOUR STUDENTS!
HMPH. AN INTERESTING CHALLENGE. I'LL BET YOU THIS UNWRAPPED DORAYAKI PASTRY THAT THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP) OBLITERATES YOUR THIRD-YEARS.


SMIRK
THIRD-YEAR TEACHER PORUTA TORADA
TORADA-SENSEI, YOU'RE THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF ALL THE THIRD-YEARS! HOW CAN YOU TURN A BLIND EYE TO THAT KIND OF VIOLENCE?!
WELL, WHAT THIRD-YEAR TEACHER DOESN'T WANT TO LET THEIR STUDENTS TASTE A LITTLE GLORY BEFORE GRADUATION?

WHAT THE HECK?! WHY IS HE BRINGING US A TOKYO SOUVENIR WHEN WE ALREADY LIVE IN TOKYO?!
OH-HO! I'D PLANNED ON SHARING THIS BOX OF TOKYO BANANA PASTRIES WITH EVERY-ONE, BUT INSTEAD I'LL USE IT TO MEET YOUR WAGER!
TOKYO BANANA

HOLY CRAP! HE'S BETTING THAT?!
TONK
HOW INTERESTING! I THINK I MAY JOIN YOU IN THIS LITTLE WAGER, IF I MAY. I WILL BET THIS ON THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP) BEING VICTORIOUS.


I BELIEVE THAT MEANS THE TREASURE THIS KEY GUARDS IS NOT MEANT FOR ME. THUS, I NEEDN'T KEEP IT ANY LONGER.
YES. YOU SEE, IT IS MISSING A SMALL BUT VITAL PIECE. I'VE SEARCHED FOR YEARS, BUT HAVE NEVER FOUND IT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO BET THAT ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
THIS SKULL IS THE KEY TO AN ANCIENT TREASURE.
WHAT THE HECK IS IT?!

COULD THE PENDANT MY FAMILY HAS PASSED DOWN FOR GENERATIONS BE THE MISSING PIECE?!

Gulp...

IT CAN'T BE!!

OH...
WAIT... THE SHAPE OF ITS EYE...!

I-I BET THAT THE THIRD-YEARS ARE GOING TO WIN! MY WAGER IS, UM...THE CUPCAKES THAT ONE STUDENT BRINGS US EVERY DAY!!
OH MY GOSH! EVEN STUFFY, SERIOUS NISHINAGA-SENSEI IS GETTING IN ON THE BET!!
FUKUKO NISHINAGA (HOME EC. CLUB ADVISOR) THIS IS THE FIRST (AND BIGGEST) WAGER OF HER LIFE.

DUDE, YOU ARE JUST TOO MUCH!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
GRA AAA AH!!

(BASKETBALL CLUB) KISARAZU: ELIMINATED
I...I CAN'T KEEP UP!!!

FIGHT!!
Gosh, I've never made a bet before!

D-FRAGMENTS ディーふらぐ！

AND NOW, WE STEP BACK INTO THE FAR PAST FOR A FLASHBACK...
DUN DUN DUNNN

FROM HERE ON OUT, I'M GONNA BE LEGEND-ARY!
SHFF
HA! DON'T COUNT ME OUT YET, DUDE! THAT WAS ALL JUST A WARM-UP!
SHFF
NBA

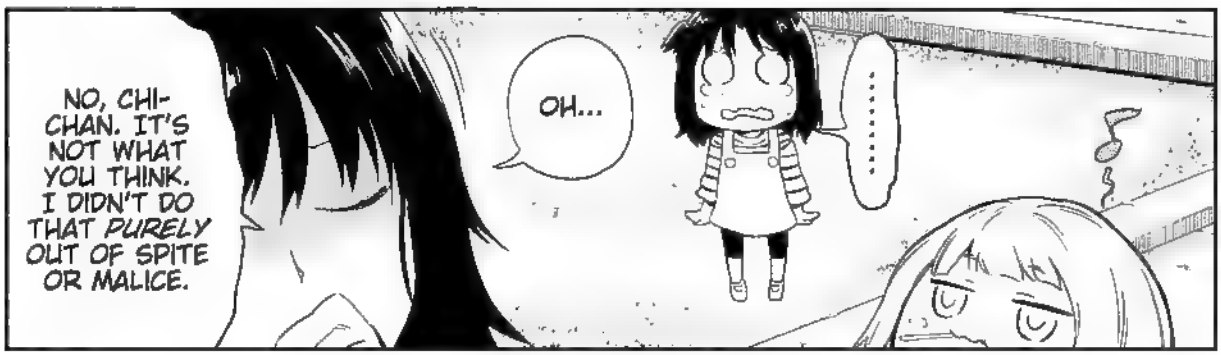
BAM
BAM
HEY, BRAH, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AREN'T YOU GONNA STOP ME? HEH HEH!
BAM
BAM

YOU SURE 'BOUT THAT, MAN?
?!
WAP
THE ONLY LEGEND HERE IS GONNA BE ME!
ACK ?!

WAIT...! YOU MUST BE THE KID THAT JUST MOVED HERE FROM THE LAND OF BASKETBALL!!
HUH?! HE BLOCKED MY BLOCK-BUSTER SHOT LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!

Chapter 35
She Looks Perfectly Content to Play Alone

GOOD WORK.
??
!!
BOOM~!
WOOSH
WRECK IT.
SNAP
SPLAAAFF


NO, CHI-CHAN. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK. I DIDN'T DO THAT *PURELY* OUT OF SPITE OR MALICE.
OH...
.....

WHA?! I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SUCH A BIG DEAL!
LOTS OF LACKEYS, TOO.
AWW, DO I HAVE TOO? I *ALREADY* GOTS LOTS OF FRIENDS.
KOFF
YOU THERE. HOW ABOUT YOU BECOME HER FRIEND AND PLAY WITH HER, HM?

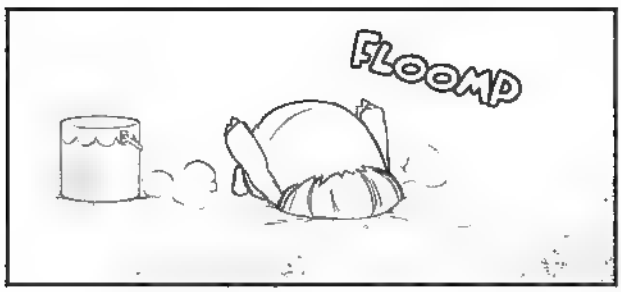
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU. I HAVE TO PLAY THE MONSTER. OTHERWISE YOU WOULD JUST BE CONTENT TO SIT ALL BY YOURSELF IN THIS SANDBOX FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, DOING NOTHING BUT BUILDING PILES OF SAND.
KOFF KOFF

STEP
!!
CHI-CHAN, YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO PLAY OUTSIDE THE SANDBOX, OR YOU'LL BE FRIENDLESS FOREVER!

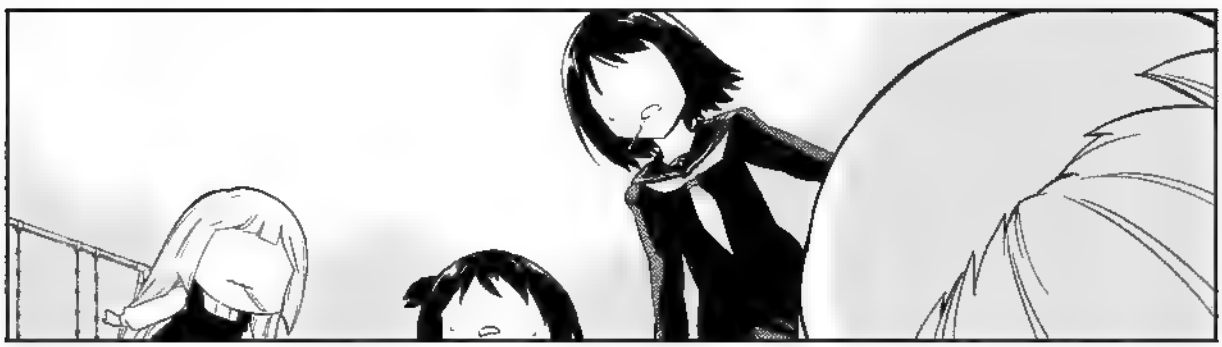
IS THIS KID TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT?!
CAN I PLEASE PLAY IN THE SANDBOX, TOO?
TOTTER
TOTTER
DRAG DRAG
ONEECHAN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
If you go away, I'll give you candy
UHH... SORRY, LITTLE GIRL, BUT THIS SANDBOX IS OCCUPIED.
HUH? NO--
I MEAN, YES.
HEY, YOU. ARE YOU, LIKE, A FOREIGN-ER?
B-BUT LOOK AT HER! SHE HAS BLONDE HAIR! SHE MUST BE A FOREIGNER. YOU TWO COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER!
Heck, even I'm only in my 2nd year of English class!
?
SHE COULD JUST BE DYING IT.
KOFF KOFF
OH...

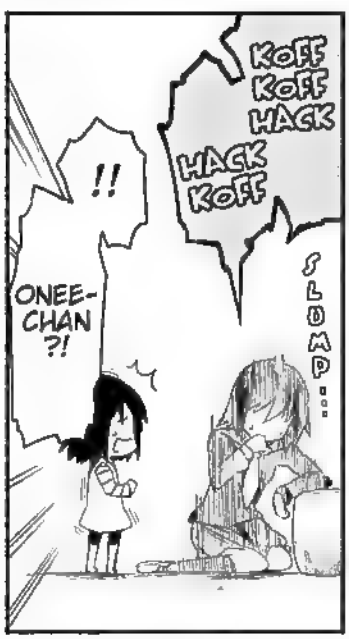
NO, IT'S TRUE. I COME FROM THE LAND OF FREEDOM.
"LAND OF FREEDOM"? DO YOU MEAN AMERICA?
SHE SAID "YES"! SHE IS A FOREIGNER! A REAL, LIVE FOREIGNER!!
UH, SHE TOTALLY SAID "NO," BUT CHANGED IT TO "YES" AT THE LAST SECOND.
UMM... WA... WA... WANNN ?
SHE KNOWS IT?!
DEE... DEE... UH, DEE...
!!
HOLD ON, YOU CAN'T EXPECT A LITTLE KID TO KNOW THAT!
RIIIIGHT. SO WHAT'S THE CAPITAL OF THE U.S.?
!!
AHA!
DENZEL WASHINGTON !!
OH, UH, RIGHT.
MUMBLE MUMBLE
KOFF KOFF
Oneechan...
THE RIGHT ANSWER IS "WASHING-TON, D.C."
WHAT? NO. "DENZEL WASHINGTON" IS SOME DUDE'S NAME. DUH.
AMAZING! SHE EVEN KNEW THE NAME OF THE CAPITAL CITY! SHE REALLY IS A FOREIGN-ER!!

BUT THIS MIGHT BE MY ONE CHANCE TO MAKE A FRIEND WHO WILL PLAY WITH ME IN THE SANDBOX!
ONEE-CHAN!
SO EVERYTHING YOU JUST SAID WAS AN UTTER LIE?! KOFF KOFF KOFF!!
ANYWAY, AS I AM 100% JAPANESE, I AM ALSO GOING TO PLAY IN THIS SANDBOX.
So there!


FLOOMP

SKCH
SKCH




KOFF KOFF HACK
HACK KOFF
!!
ONEE-CHAN?!
SLOMP...

WELL, UH...
SHE LOOKS PERFECTLY CONTENT TO PLAY ALONE.
THAT'S A GAME?

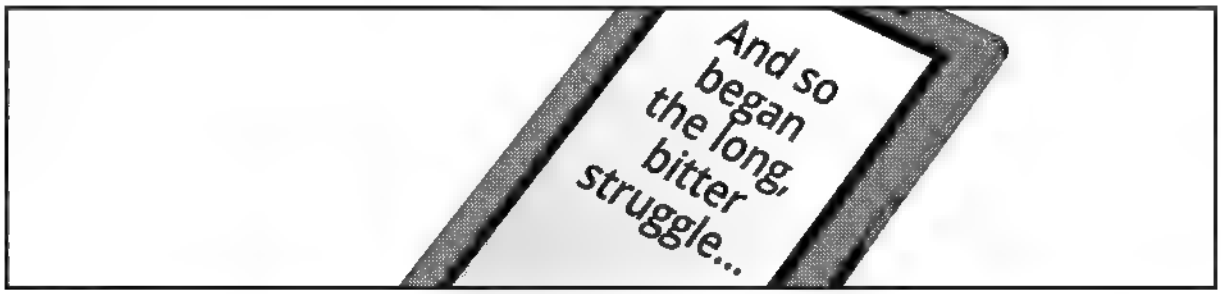
ONEE-CHAN...
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
DO YOU UNDERSTAND *NOW*, CHI-CHAN? AS LONG AS YOU PLAY IN THE SANDBOX, YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE.
AND WHO KNOWS HOW LONG *I'LL* BE HERE FOR YOU.
I might have make-up classes.
.....
TOTALLY EARNEST
YES. I UNDER-STAND, ONEE-CHAN.
YOU DO?! THAT'S GREAT, CHI-CHAN!
SPLAAFF
BA-BOOM!
SNAP
NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!!
I LOVE PLAYING IN THE SANDBOX! IT'S MY FAVORITE THING IN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND SOMEDAY, I'M GONNA BUILD THE ***BEST*** SAND-CASTLE THERE EVER WAS!!
NO, ***YOU*** DON'T GET IT, ONEE-CHAN!
?!!
YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL, CHI-CHAN! I-- ***KOFF KOFF KOFF!!***

I USUALLY FAIL GYM CLASS. I GUESS I PROJECTED ONTO HER...
SO SHE WANTS TO DO THAT? HUNH. OKAY. INTERESTING. I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST HIDING AT THE SANDBOX BECAUSE SHE'S NOT VERY ATHLETIC.
WOW. I NEVER KNEW CHI-CHAN HAD THAT KIND OF AMBITION.
WHAT ...?
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR GIANT SANDCASTLE! EVERYONE WILL WANT TO SEE IT!
FROM NOW ON, GO AND DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CHI-CHAN. I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND.
YEAH !!
THEN YOU'LL MAKE LOTS OF FRIENDS! ♪
!!
NO! I DIDN'T ORDER HER TO DO THAT THIS TIME! I SWEAR!!
BA-BA-BOOO-OOOM!

THIS KID IS A BIG DEAL!!
WHAT? DO YOU THINK I'M SO CHEAP THAT ONLY ONE PIECE CAN BUY ME?
THAT'S MY BAG OF CANDY! I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE WHOLE THING!!
SORRY. ONCE I'VE BEEN PAID, IT'S, LIKE, MY POLICY TO SEE A JOB ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE END.
CANDY
SWSH
RAH--!
RAH!
RAH!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Yikes!!
ROKA THAT WASN'T NICE!
Waaah!
!!
PLONK
TWITCH
HUH?!
Waaah!
I HAVE DONE MY PART, YOU MUST FINISH IT.
WOW, THAT WAS REALLY IMPRESSIVE, UH...UM... MINI DENZEL WASHINGTON-CHAN!!
I WILL PUNISH ANY MEANIE WHO DARES STOMP ON ANOTHER PERSON'S DREAM!

IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU WANT, SOMETIMES YOU MUST GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY TO GET IT.
AND A SHARP ONE-LINER, TOO! YOU'RE PRETTY AWESOME, MINI DENZEL WASHINGTON-CHAN!!
GLENCH
AAA AAH !!
.....
Waaaaah!!
HMPH. I DO NOT REVEAL MY SECRET IDENTITY TO JUST ANYONE. YOU MAY CALL ME JOHN Q.
HEY! YOU AT LEAST GIVE HER YOUR REAL NAME! I MEAN, "JOHN Q?" YOU REALLY ARE JUST A CLOSET DENZEL WASHINGTON FAN!!
KOFF KOFF
John Q. movie (2002)
Waaaaah!!
UM, MINI DENZEL WASHING-TON-CHAN?
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME YOUR REAL NAME? I'M CHITOSE.
FIDGET FIDGET
Waaaah!!
OH MY GOD! CHI-CHAN ACTUALLY INITIATED A CONVERSATION! GOOD JOB, CHI-CHAN! GOOD--KOFF KOFF KOFF!!
STILL, CHI-CHAN DID REALLY WELL TODAY. GOOD JOB, CHI-CHAN!
WHEEZE WHEEZE
WAAAH! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!
I'M GONNA DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO MESS UP EVERY-THING YOU DO!!

AND SO BEGAN THE LONG, BITTER STRUGGLE...
Will you two please MOVE?! The track team needs that!
Yeek!!
Yaaaah!!
Uhmmm...
Make-up class.


And so began the long, bitter struggle...

HMM... I THINK YOU COULD FURTHER EXPLORE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHI-CHAN AND HER SISTER.
WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING ANALYZING THAT FAKE STORY TOGETHER? STOP BEING SO BUDDY-BUDDY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STORY? WAS IT NOT A TEAR-JERKING MASTER-PIECE?
SHADDAP, "JOHN Q." QUIT BUTTING IN AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN MESS.
HOW ABOUT YOU QUIT ADDING EVEN MORE MADE-UP STUFF?! HELL, IS THERE ANYTHING TRUE IN THIS STORY?!
YOU FORGOT TO GIVE ME A SCENE. HOW ABOUT YOU SAY I WAS PLAYING AT THE PARK'S WATER FOUNTAIN? ♪
THERE, SEE?! IT'S ALL A PACK OF LIES!!
It was all about the remote-controlled cars!
YEAH, DUDE. WE DIDN'T EVEN PLAY BASKETBALL BACK THEN!
RIGHT?
THIS WHOLE THING'S GOTTA BE MAKE-BELIEVE.
I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THE PREZ WAS THAT TIMID AND CUTE ONCE, EVEN AS A KID.
I MEAN, SE-RIOUS-LY.

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT ?!
WHOA, DUDE! PONY-TAIL SIGHT-ING!!
UH OH...
OR MAYBE THERE WAS A KERNEL OF TRUTH IN THERE...
BUT I'VE GOT PIG-TAILS~!
UH, RIGHT. I GUESS THAT'S TRUE...
PONYTAILS ARE THE GO-TO HAIRSTYLE FOR, LIKE, ALL GIRL ATHLETES, BRAH!
HOW 'BOUT YOU PRAC-TICE IN-STEAD ?!
C'MON, BRAH! LET'S ADMIRE PONY-TAILS TO-GETH-ER!!
Y-YEAH, BUT WE STILL GET TO WATCH THEM PRACTICE RIGHT NEXT TO US!
WHAT DO PONYTAILS HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING?! THE GIRLS' BASKET-BALL CLUB IS TOTALLY SEPARATE!
UH... HELLO? PIGTAILS? HEY!
LOOK! PIGTAILS! TWICE AS GOOD!
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING !!
YOU GOTTA! NOW COME JOIN THE BASKET-BALL CLUB!
WHAT, ME? I, UH--
KAZAMA-KUN, YOU'VE GOTTA LOVE A GOOD PONYTAIL, RIGHT, MAN?
UH, HELLO? I'VE GOT TWO PONY-TAILS. TWO~!

SHUT !! UP !!!
WHAM

WHOOSH
YOU NAME YOUR BASKET-BALLS?!
MI-TSUI !!
MI-YAGI !!

MITSUI !!
MIYAGI !!
AHB
WHO ?!

!!

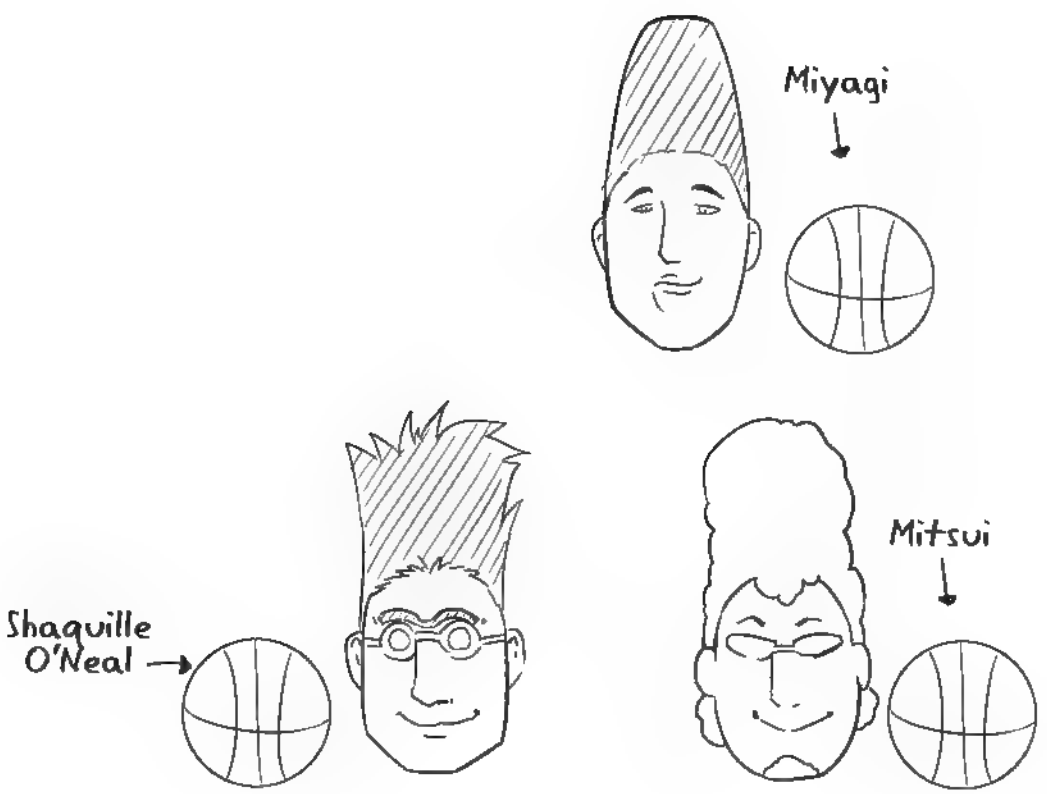
WELL?
WHICH IS IT? PONYTAIL OR PIGTAILS?

UMM... THEY EXPECT ME TO ANSWER THAT?
Miyagi...!!
Mitsui...!!
WAIT, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE JUDGE!
!!
TH-THERE'S MORE THAN JUST TWO HAIRSTYLES OUT THERE.

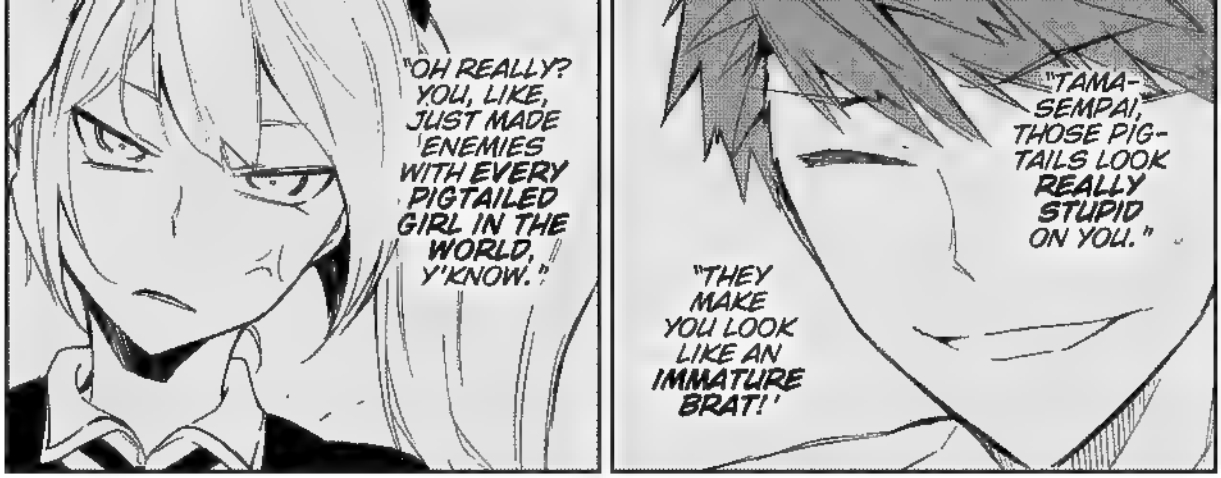
ANYWAY, SHIELD #2 HAS ARRIVED.
!

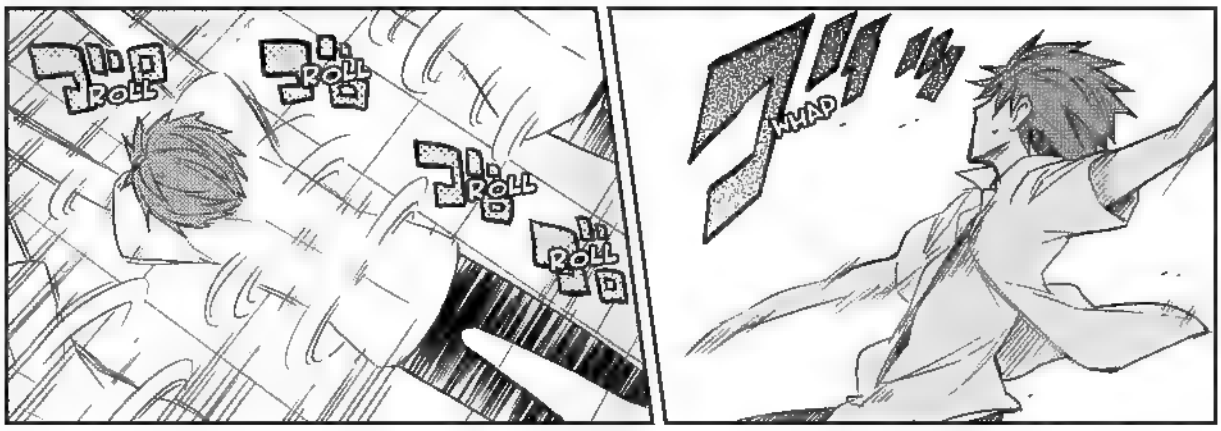
TAMA-SEMPAI, THOSE PIGTAILS LOOK REALLY STUPID ON YOU.
THEY MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE AN IMMATURE BRAT!

OH REALLY? YOU, LIKE, JUST MADE ENEMIES WITH EVERY PIGTAILED GIRL IN THE WORLD, Y'KNOW.
IN THE NAME OF PIGTAILS EVERYWHERE, I'M TOTALLY GONNA CRUSH YOU. OH, AND IT'S TAMA-CHAN TO YOU.
UH, HE NEVER SAID WHICH HE LIKED.
HE DODGED THE QUES-TION.


Miyagi
Shaquille
O'Neal
Mitsui

D-FRAGMENTS ディーふらぐ！

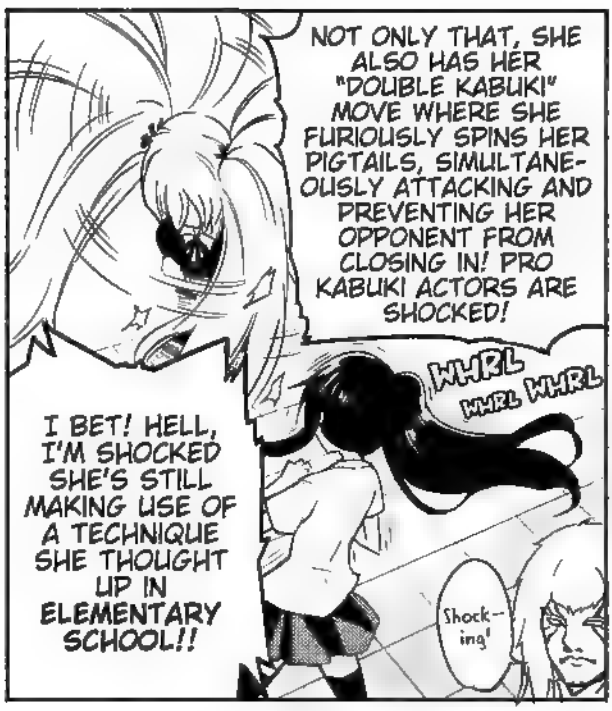

"OH REALLY? YOU, LIKE, JUST MADE ENEMIES WITH EVERY PIGTAILED GIRL IN THE WORLD, Y'KNOW."
"TAMA-SEMPAI, THOSE PIG-TAILS LOOK REALLY STUPID ON YOU."
"THEY MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE AN IMMATURE BRAT!"


ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
THUD

THUD

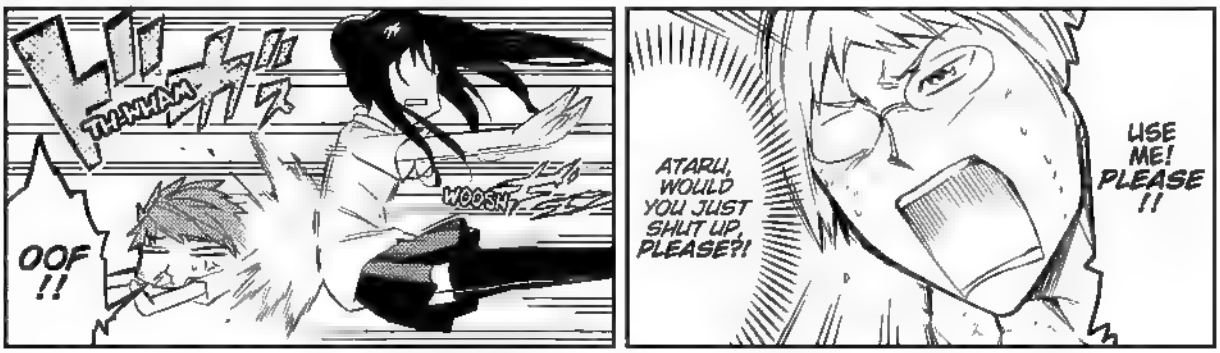
KENJI, ARE YOU OKAY?
Sniff...
.....

They're ridiculously strong fighters!!
I KNOW THIS IS NOTHING NEW, BUT WHAT *THE HELL* IS UP WITH THE *GIRLS* IN THIS SCHOOL?!
YES, IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO ASK THAT NOW.
KOFF
WHE EZE
Chapter 36
My Final Move Is...


NOT ONLY THAT, SHE ALSO HAS HER "DOUBLE KABUKI" MOVE WHERE SHE FURIOUSLY SPINS HER PIGTAILS, SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACKING AND PREVENTING HER OPPONENT FROM CLOSING IN! PRO KABUKI ACTORS ARE SHOCKED!
WHIRL WHIRL WHIRL
I BET! HELL, I'M SHOCKED SHE'S STILL MAKING USE OF A TECHNIQUE SHE THOUGHT UP IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!
Shock-ing!

WAP WAP WAP WAP
HER *HARITE* SUMO HAND-SLAPS ARE *INSANE!* THEY REALLY HURT! SHE FRICKEN TOSSED ME ACROSS THE ROOM!!
YES, TAMA-SEMPAI HAS A MEAN *HARITE* TECHNIQUE. IT EVEN IMPRESSES PRO SUMO WRESTLERS!
Not bad.

AND I AM THE MAN WHO TOOK THE FULL BRUNT OF BOTH OF THOSE TERRIFYING MOVES...AND SURVIVED!!
BARELY! YOU LOOK BEAT TO WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE!!
HEH! DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE HOW FAST I HEAL. IN FACT, I'M READY FOR ANOTHER ROUND!
KENJI! PLEASE USE ME AS YOUR SHIELD !!
UHH... THANKS, BUT NO.
HUH ?!


USE ME! PLEASE !!
ATARU, WOULD YOU JUST SHUT UP, PLEASE?!
THWAM
WOOSH
OOF !!

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TWO SHIELDS DOING LOUNGING AROUND?! GET UP!
Tch!
ERR...

HANG ON... DO WE REALLY NEED TO BEAT HER? I THOUGHT WE JUST NEEDED TO SWIPE HER CELL PHONE AND SEND A TEXT FROM IT.
KRIK KRAK
Gawd! That, like, gives me such a crick in my neck.
TRUST ME, I WOULD DO IT IF I COULD.
BUT, WELL... I JUST WANNA BEAT HER.
THERE, SEE?! YOU ADMIT-TED IT YOUR-SELF!

DAMMIT! LOOKS LIKE OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO PIN HER DOWN AND YANK IT OUT!
OF ALL THE PLACES FOR HER TO STUFF THAT THING...
WE SURE AS HELL AREN'T GONNA REACH IN THERE!!
SORRY! YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET YOUR HANDS ON THIS!
!!
LIKE, BY THE WAY, I TOTALLY PLAN ON BEATING THE LOT OF YOU SENSELESS FIRST. THEN I'LL JUST TAKE YOUR CELL PHONES FROM YOUR CORPSES.
HOLY CRAP!!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, KAZAMA. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TICKED HER OFF.
YEAH, YEAH! I'M SORRY, OKAY?!
AND YOU DODGED THE ANSWER.
HUH?!
!!
GOOD PLAN. YOU TWO COULD AT LEAST TRY TO WEAR HER OUT.
!!
THERE, SEE?! USE ME, KENJI!!

I'm the one who's gonna get worn out!
HOLY CRAP, YOU'RE HEAVY!! HOW 'BOUT SOME HELP HERE?!
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE! ACCORDING TO THE RULES, I'M NOT OFFICIALLY A PART OF THIS. I CAN ONLY BE USED AS AN ITEM!!

HUH?! THAT GUY IS ACTUALLY DOING HIS JOB?! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
THE JUDGE HAS BEEN WATCHING US THIS WHOLE TIME TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T CHEAT! THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVEN ATTEMPT TO STAND ON MY OWN!!

Hey !!
KICK
KICK
KICK

RIGHT, RIGHT. SAYS THE ONE WHO SPENT HER WHOLE LIFE "WORKING OUT" BY DIGGING HOLES IN THE SAND.
Hmph!
CAN'T YOU EVEN HOLD HIM UP? WUSS.

SKSHHH
GY AA AH !!
BLAAAM
YO!
!!

SPIKY HAIR, YOU CAN, LIKE, RUN HOME TO MOMMY NOW.
HUH ?!
HM.
I GET IT NOW.

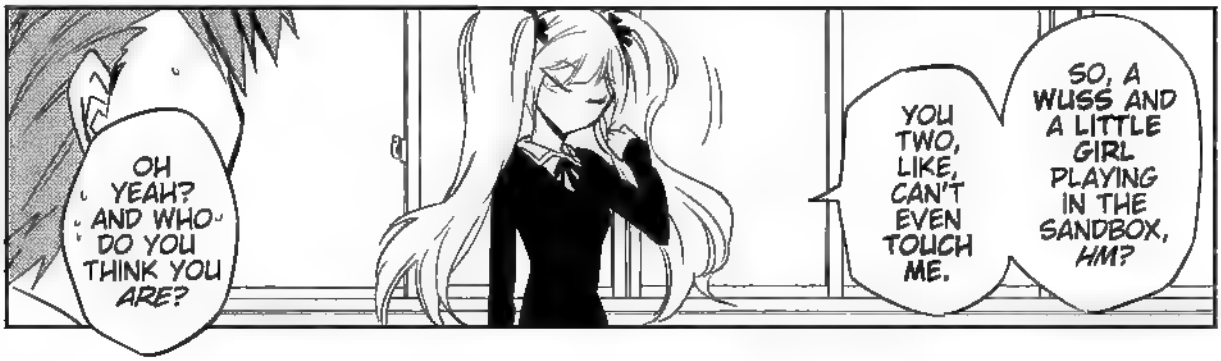
BUT I GUESS THAT WAS JUST, LIKE, A FLUKE OR SOME-THING.
I'D TOTALLY GOTTEN MY HOPES UP WHEN I HEARD YOU BEAT ROKA-CHAN...
YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO FACE ME.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, TAMA-SEMPAI! PLEASE STOP INSULTING KENJI!
HEY !!
HE MAY BE JUST ANOTHER NORMAL GUY, BUT HE DID MAKE IT *THIS* FAR! HECK, HE WAS THE WEAKEST OF ALL OF US ONCE!
GAH !! ATARU !!
BAM
IN THAT CASE...
YOU'RE, LIKE, NOT WORTH MY TIME.
SO I WAS RIGHT. HE'S TOTES NORMAL.
MY FINAL MOVE...
IS THE SUMO SHOVE-OUT!

BOMP
SKSH
SKSHHH
!!
BWAH ?!
He stopped?
I DIDN'T MEANT TO...
HUH?
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I JUST HAPPENED TO BE STANDING HERE BECAUSE I WAS ON MY WAY OUT TO THE BATH-ROOM!
SOUNDS LEGIT TO ME!
YOU...
DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

WSH
ROKA WOULDN'T LOSE 'CAUSE OF A FLUKE. HE'S THE REAL DEAL.
I-IF YOU LOSE AND GET THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP) DISBANDED, I'M NOT ALLOWING YOU TO JOIN THE REAL GAME DEV. CLUB!
YOU'VE STILL GOT SOME STRENGTH LEFT, RIGHT?
LET'S DO THIS, SHIELD #2.
!
HA!

THIS CLUB'S STILL BETTER THAN THE "GO STRAIGHT HOME" CLUB!
WAP
MORE LIKE "THE DELIN-QUENT CLUB."


SO, A WUSS AND A LITTLE GIRL PLAYING IN THE SANDBOX, HM?
YOU TWO, LIKE, CAN'T EVEN TOUCH ME.
OH YEAH? AND WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

I'M NOT THE LITTLE GIRL YOU ONCE KNEW, TAMA-SEMPAI. SINCE THEN, I'VE GAINED THE POWER AND PROTECTION OF THE EARTH!!
WOULD YOU PLEASE TRY MAKING SENSE?!

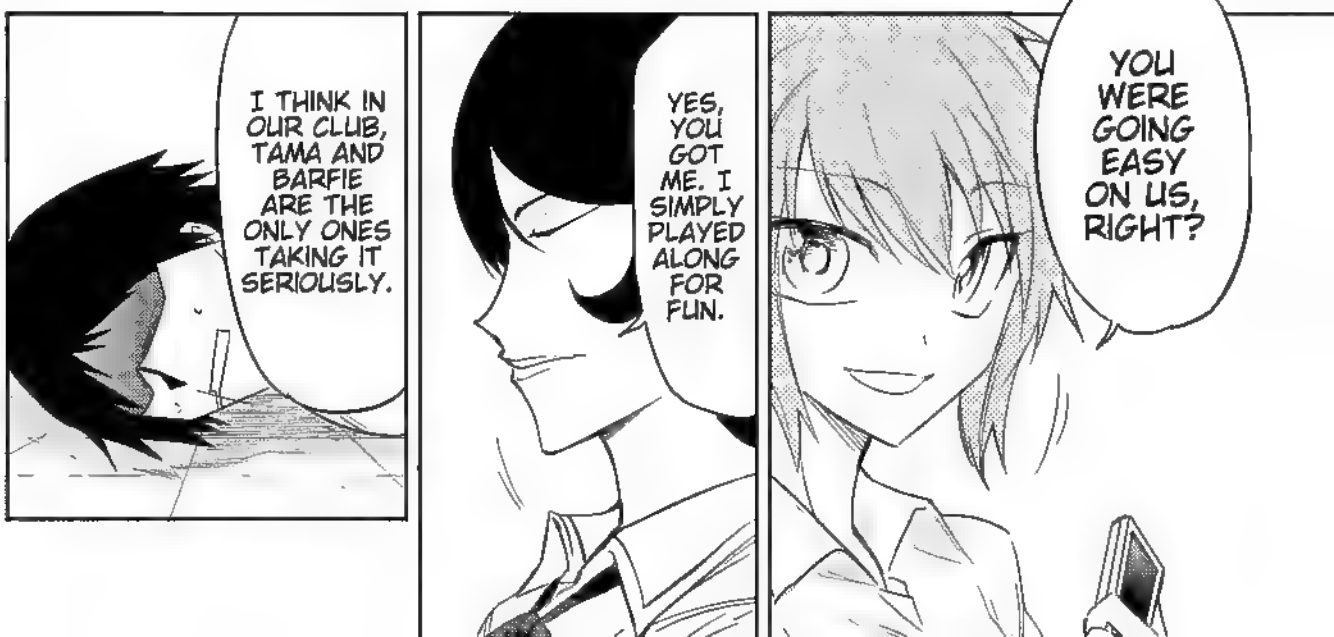
ME? I'M TOTALLY THE GENIUS THAT TURNED JAPANESE CULTURE INTO A SUPER-WEAPON!
SINCE WHEN ?!
ZING!

ER...TAKAO-SAN? WEREN'T YOU GOING TO THE WASHROOM? IT'S DANGEROUS TO HOLD IT...
Y-YOU'RE BRINGING THAT UP NOW?!
KENJI, ONCE THE GAME DEV. CLUB IS DISBANDED, LET'S GO BACK TO HANGING OUT AND GRABBING SNACKS ON THE WAY HOME!
HEY, DON'T WRITE US OFF YET!
I GUESS WE'D BETTER WRAP THIS UP SO TAKAO CAN TAKE A DUMP.
EW! THAT'S SO GROSS !!
BUT UNTIL THEN... HOLD IT.
EW! STOP!
H-HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE AWKWARD SILENCE?!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT UP!!
LIKE, HANG IN THERE JUST A LITTLE LONGER, 'KAY? THEN YOU CAN GO!
Cool?
CAN WE PLEASE STOP TALKING ABOUT IT?!

FLUUSH

YOU HELD BACK ON ME, DIDN'T YOU MATSUBARA-SEMPAI?
STILL ...
HEE HEE!
GOODNESS, WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT I WOULD TIE WITH A FIRST-YEAR. YOU ARE INDEED A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT!

THAT WAS WAY TOO EASY!
THE QUESTION YOU HAD ON YOUR PHONE: "WHAT'S TODAY'S LUNCH SET A?"
OH? WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?


I THINK IN OUR CLUB, TAMA AND BARFIE ARE THE ONLY ONES TAKING IT SERIOUSLY.
YES, YOU GOT ME. I SIMPLY PLAYED ALONG FOR FUN.
YOU WERE GOING EASY ON US, RIGHT?

Like, now what do I do with them?
I'm sorry, I'm sorry!
BUT EVEN ON HER OWN, TAMA IS A POWERFUL OPPONENT.
Stupidly so...

CHI-CHAN AND ROKA-CHAN? YES, THEY ARE BOTH QUITE IMPRESSIVE. BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT YOUNG MAN, KAZAMA-SAN?
I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY. OUR CLUB'S SEMPAI ARE NO SLOUCHES, EITHER.

YEAH, BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO THE WIRE...
THAT WILL HARDLY DO.
OH, HIM? I GUESS IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE HIM IN A WORD, IT'D BE "NORMAL."

OH YEAH! I'D BETTER SEND A TEXT TO NOE'CHI.
Let her know her big brother's coming home a little battered today.

THAT'S PRETTY MEANING-LESS...
HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'LL USE A DIRTY TRICK OR TWO TO WIN...OR LOSE TRYING!

KA-POW

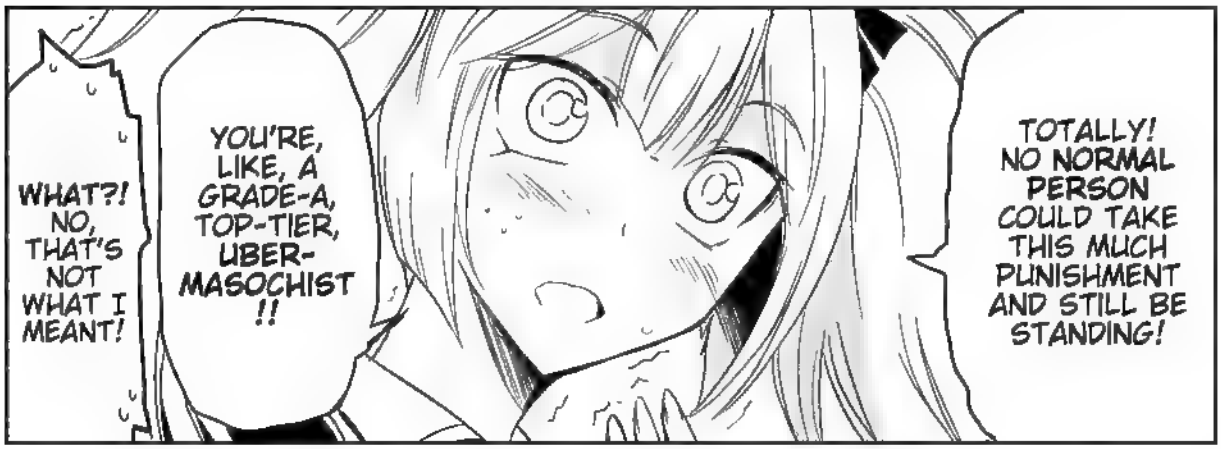
RAH!
RAH!
RAH!

NNGH! TH-THAT WAS NO-THING!!
!!
WHOOSH

BAAAM
Oof!!

YOU GUYS SHOULD, LIKE, JUST GIVE UP ALREADY!
WHEW!

Ouch...
ARE YOU GONNA TAKE BACK CALLING ME "TOTES NORMAL" NOW?


TOTALLY! NO NORMAL PERSON COULD TAKE THIS MUCH PUNISHMENT AND STILL BE STANDING!
YOU'RE, LIKE, A GRADE-A, TOP-TIER, UBER-MASOCHIST !!
WHAT?! NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

HEY! WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK ?!
YOU KNOW IT'S NOT TRUE!
SE-RIOUS-LY! STOP THAT!!

DAMMIT! AND WE'RE GETTING SO CLOSE TO BEATING HER, TOO. SHE'S STARTING TO GET TIRED.
HER? YOU LOOK LIKE A SLIGHT BREEZE WOULD KNOCK YOU OVER!
HA! WELL, SO DO YOU.
YEAH, I AM FEELING A BIT WINDED...

SO LET'S FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

I MEAN EVERY-THING FROM THE DAY WE MET AT THAT SANDBOX.

BY "THIS," DO YOU MEAN EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE WE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL?

WAIT, WHAT'S WITH THIS FLASH-BACK?
IS YOUR SISTER OKAY?
WEE-OOO WEE-OOO
Are you listening to me?!
I said ULP!!
Hey. KOFF... I said no— KOFF KOFF!
Now, now 'No fighting.
KOFF KOFF

NO, I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU AND THEN BUILD A GIANT SANDCASTLE IN THE SCHOOL'S SAND-PIT, AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANY-THING ABOUT IT!!
FORGET ABOUT THAT, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SISTER?!

FINE WITH ME! I'LL TOTALLY BEAT YOU INTO A PULP, AND THEN ENJOY THE REST OF MY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE WITHOUT YOUR ANNOYING FACE IN THE BACK-GROUND!!
HANG ON! BACK UP! WHAT ABOUT HER SISTER?!

All that and she's "fine"?! Sheesh!!
SHE'S TOTALLY FINE!!
DUN
OOF!
SPLAT
KNK
KNK
WAHH!!

WHAT KIND OF HIGH SCHOOL GIRL USES SUMO TECHNIQUES TO BEAT PEOPLE UP?!
pfeh! pfeh!
EEW, GRODY! WHAT KIND OF HIGH SCHOOL GIRL KEEPS MUD BALLS IN HER POCKETS ?!
!!
WSH
WHAT KIND OF HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ARE EITHER OF YOU TWO?!
BEAT ME? GROPE ME?
SO WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
HA! I FINALLY GOT PAST YOUR GUARD.

SWIIIP
WINCE
I LIKE YOU BETTER WITH YOUR HAIR DOWN, TAMA-CHAN-SEMPAI.
IT MAKES YOU LOOK PRETTY AND MATURE.
PWISH
UHHH...
THERE. I DID IT, JUST LIKE YOU ASKED.
TP TP TP TP

HUH?

HUH?

SWISH
HEH. MY FINAL MOVE...
IS CALLED "THE SUMMONS."
YEEP!!
TWITCH
NAB
HUFF HUFF
THERE'S NO SUMO MOVE CALLED THAT.

I TOLD YOU, DON'T CALL ME "CHI-CHAN." I HATE THAT NICKNAME.
!
Aaaah!
WE DID IT, CHI-CHAN!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BAGGED TAMA-SEMPAI SINCE THE DAY WE MET!
What's Set A at lunch today?
.....

THIN SLICED PORK.
Bip
SAME AS YESTERDAY.
AAAAAH!!

ガラッ SLIDE
IT'S TIME TO WIN THIS THING! HOW MANY OF THEM HAVE WE BEATEN SO FAR, HM?! HAVE WE WIPED THEM OUT YET?!
TA-DAAAH!! I WENT TO THE INFIRMARY, GOT AN ANTI-NAUSEA PILL AND LIED DOWN FOR A FEW MINUTES, SO NOW I'M BACK TO PERFECT HEALTH!!

YEAH.
Aaaaaah!
OH RIGHT. HER.
YES. HER.

Aaaaaaah!

Aaaaaaah!

THE GAME DEV. CLUB (TEMP) WINS!!
AAAH——!
BLEEARGH!!

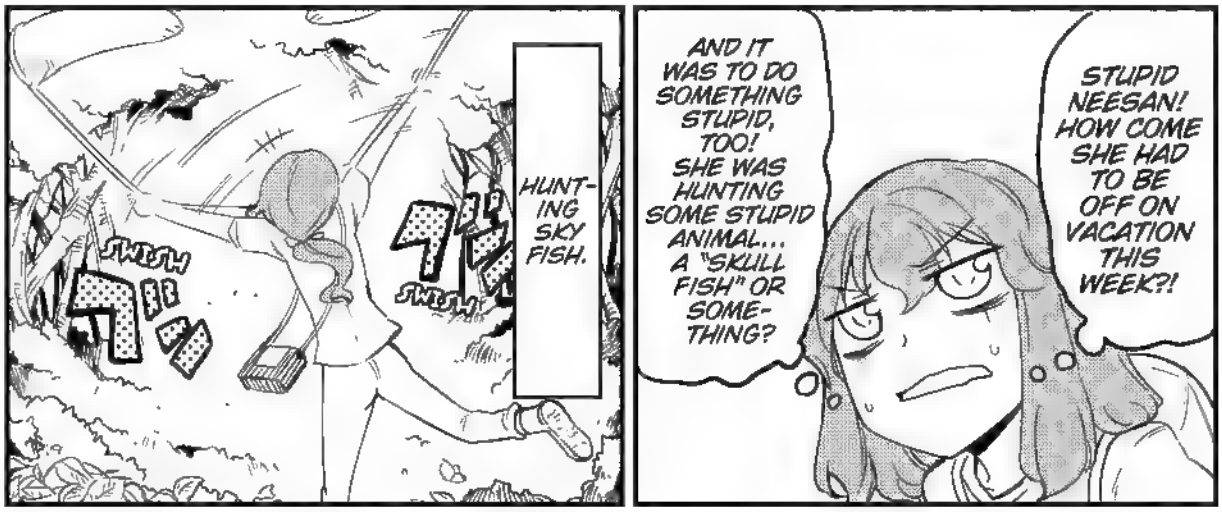
NEXT: Vol.06...

What?! They lost?!
Yay!

D-FRAGMENTS ディーふらぐ！

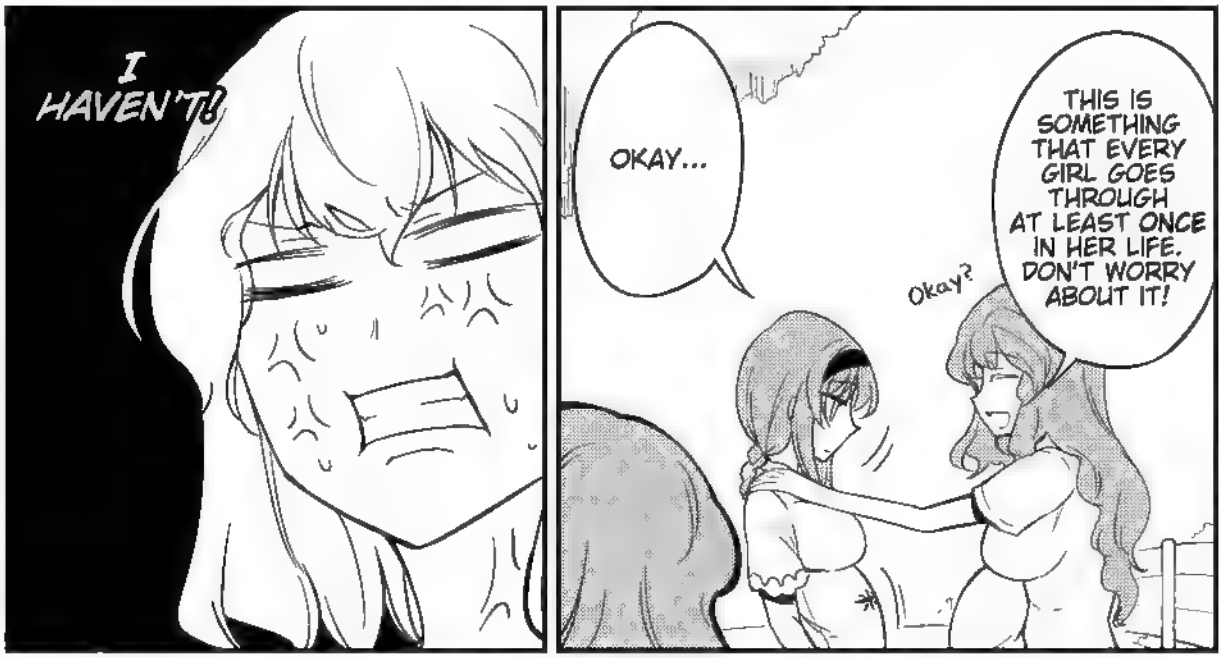
Bonus Manga
1
HRRRGH!
HNNN!
COME ON, GIRLS! YOU CAN DO IT!
STAGGER
よろり…
RICE 5Kg
RICE 5Kg

MOM, WHY DID WE HAVE TO WALK TO THE GROCERY STORE IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER?
BECAUSE IT'S SO MUCH CHEAPER THERE, DEAR! AND IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO USE GAS TO DRIVE SUCH A SHORT WAYS AWAY.
PLUS, IT'S GOOD EXERCISE! AND IT'S NOT LIKE OUR BAGS ARE THAT HEAVY.
YES, THEY ARE!! WE'RE NOT ALL FREAK-ISHLY STRONG LIKE YOU!!

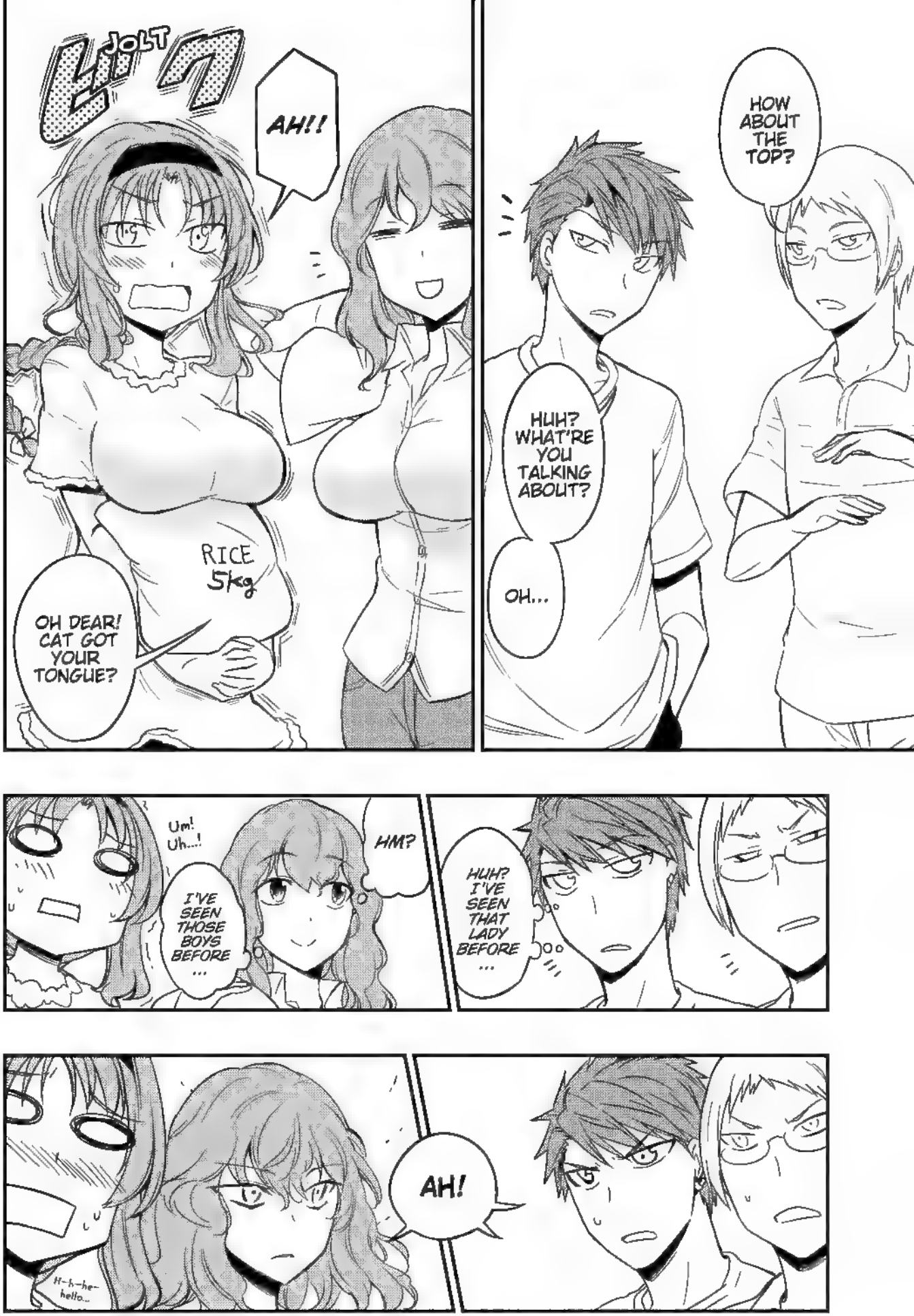

STUPID NEESAN! HOW COME SHE HAD TO BE OFF ON VACATION THIS WEEK?!
AND IT WAS TO DO SOMETHING STUPID, TOO! SHE WAS HUNTING SOME STUPID ANIMAL... A "SKULL FISH" OR SOME-THING?
HUNT-ING SKY FISH.
SWISH
SWISH

UM, MOM? I'M SORRY.
HM? FOR WHAT, DEAR?
RICE
I KNOW WE'RE STRAPPED FOR CASH, AND IT'S MY FAULT YOU HAD TO BUY ME A NEW GYM UNIFORM...
GOODNESS, ARE YOU STILL UPSET OVER POPPING THE ZIPPER ON YOUR TRACK SUIT?

I POPPED THE ZIPPER ON MY GYM UNIFORM A COUPLE OF TIMES WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL, TOO!
SMILE
ニカー
REALLY? YOU TOO, MOM?!
DEAR, LISTEN TO ME.
PAT
ポン


I HAVEN'T!
OKAY...
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT EVERY GIRL GOES THROUGH AT LEAST ONCE IN HER LIFE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
Okay?

NO, LEFT.
NO, THE ONE ON THE RIGHT.
UM, WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'D CALL WHAT I WAS DOING EXERCISING...
?
YOU'RE USUALLY THE IN-DOORSY, RETIRING TYPE.
STILL, I'M SURPRISED YOU WERE EXERCISING HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE A ZIPPER POP OFF.


JOLT
AH!!
RICE
5kg
OH DEAR! CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
HOW ABOUT THE TOP?
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OH...
Um! Uh...!
I'VE SEEN THOSE BOYS BEFORE ...
HM?
HUH? I'VE SEEN THAT LADY BEFORE ...
H-h-he-hello...
AH!

EE-YAH!!
STAB!! STAB!! STAB!! STAB
YOU'RE THE LADY WHO LEFT US ON THE ROOF TO DIE!!

I JUST REMEMBERED I LEFT THE STOVE ON. I BETTER RUSH HOME! ♪
HUH?!

MOM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M SORRY, GIRLS.
WHA?!
GAH!! THAT HURT, DAM-MIT!!
Aaaaa=
AUGH!! MY EYES!!

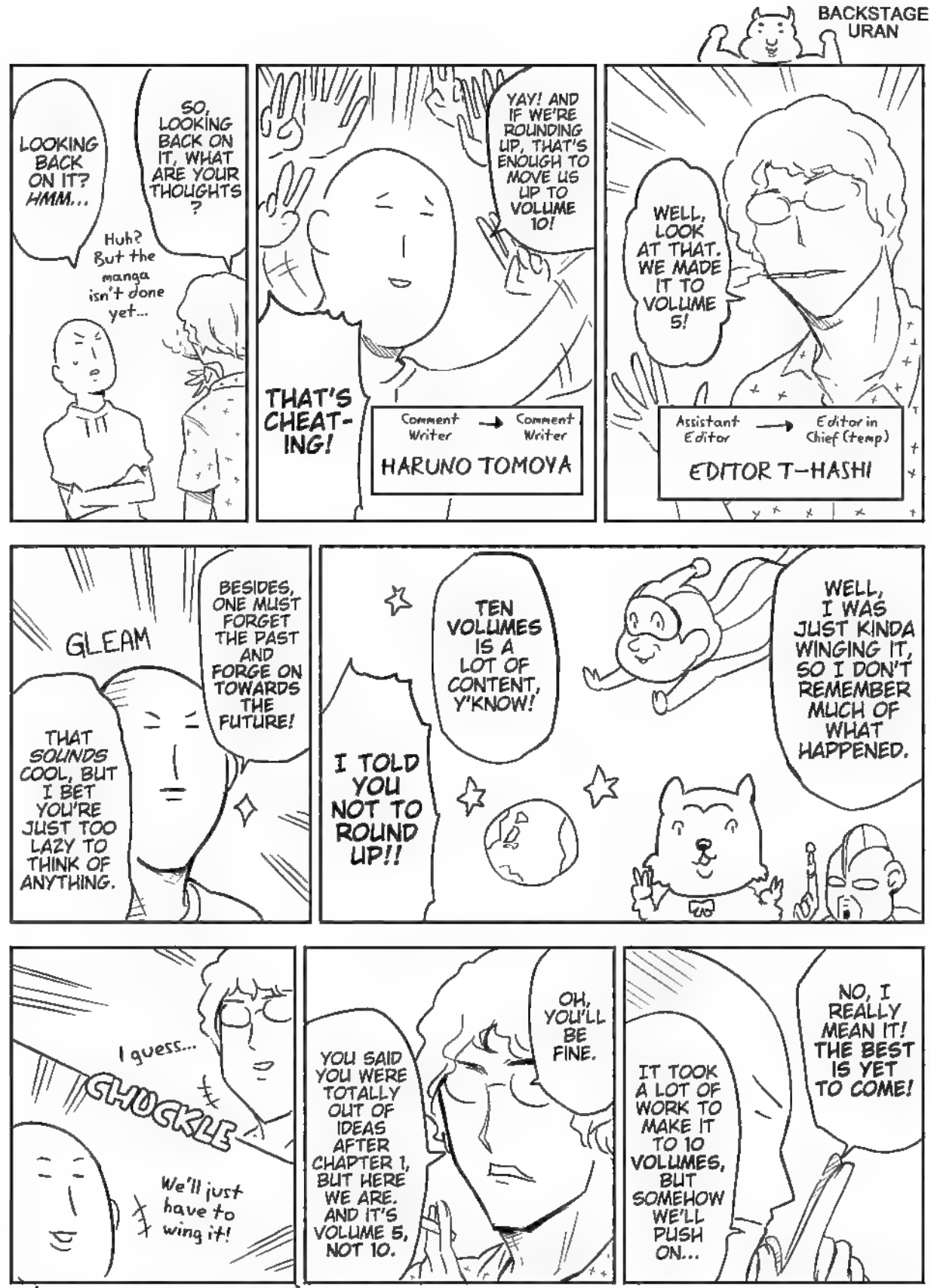
What the heck?!
MOM???!
IT WAS A FATEFUL REUNION ...

END

WOSH
WHAAAA?!

Bonus Manga 2

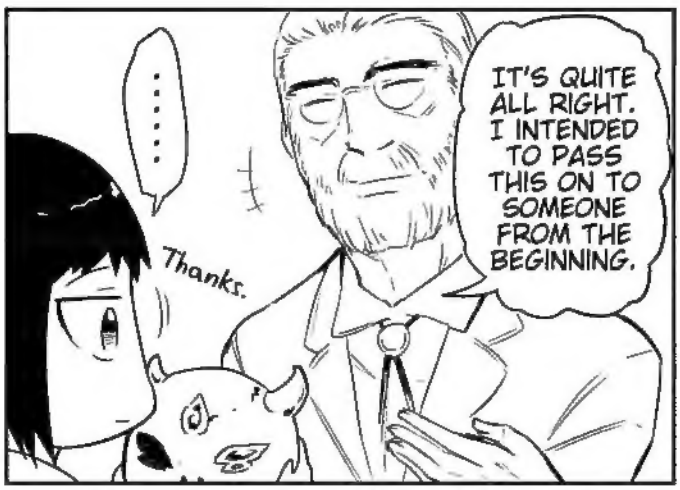
I-I GOT HURT, TOO! BUT IT'S IN A PLACE YOU CAN'T SEE. THE ONLY CURE WOULD BE A FULL, NUTRITIOUS MEAL!
OH? WELL THEN, ROKA-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR DINNER?

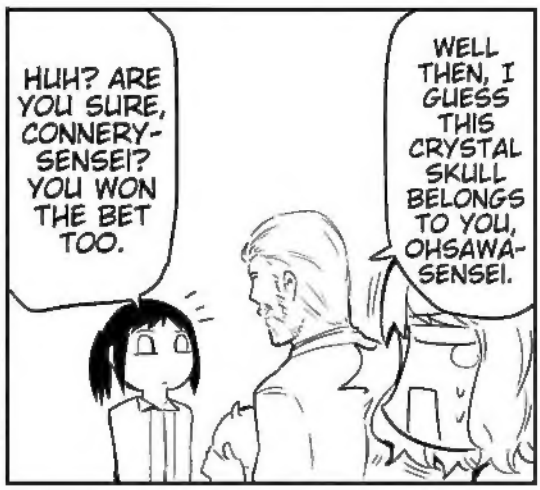

BACKSTAGE URAN
SO, LOOKING BACK ON IT, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?
LOOKING BACK ON IT? HMM...
Huh? But the manga isn't done yet...
YAY! AND IF WE'RE ROUNDING UP, THAT'S ENOUGH TO MOVE US UP TO VOLUME 10!
THAT'S CHEATING!
Comment Writer → Comment Writer
HARUNO TOMOYA
WELL, LOOK AT THAT. WE MADE IT TO VOLUME 5!
Assistant Editor → Editor in Chief (temp)
EDITOR T-HASHI
BESIDES, ONE MUST FORGET THE PAST AND FORGE ON TOWARDS THE FUTURE!
GLEAM
THAT SOUNDS COOL, BUT I BET YOU'RE JUST TOO LAZY TO THINK OF ANYTHING.
TEN VOLUMES IS A LOT OF CONTENT, Y'KNOW!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO ROUND UP!!
WELL, I WAS JUST KINDA WINGING IT, SO I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH OF WHAT HAPPENED.
I guess...
CHUCKLE
We'll just have to wing it!
YOU SAID YOU WERE TOTALLY OUT OF IDEAS AFTER CHAPTER 1, BUT HERE WE ARE. AND IT'S VOLUME 5, NOT 10.
OH, YOU'LL BE FINE.
IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO MAKE IT TO 10 VOLUMES, BUT SOMEHOW WE'LL PUSH ON...
NO, I REALLY MEAN IT! THE BEST IS YET TO COME!
ON TO VOLUME 6!

SPECIAL THANKS!! BAKU MIKAGE-SAN, MIZUKAMI-SAN
DESIGN: LIGHTNING-SAN

AND THANKS TO MY WONDERFUL READERS!!

THE AFTERMATH OF THE BET...





EEEP!!
LEAN
MASH
THERE! SEE? IT WENT IN.
AAH! YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE FOOD LIKE THAT! AND THOSE ARE SOFT, YOU CAN MASH THEM IN ANYWHERE!
MUSH
I BET I COULD STUFF A TOKYO BANANA IN THERE.
HUH?! W-WAIT, YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHAT?!
WH-WH-WHAT ABOUT IT?!
Y'KNOW, LOOKING AT THAT EMPTY EYE...
TWITCH
STARE
WHAT THE HELL?!
What's going on?!
ALL IT TOOK WAS A PASTRY ?!
GLOOOW
Oh, hey! It's getting all glowy.
WHA AAT ?!

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

D-FRAG!

story and art by **TOMOYA HARUNO**

VOLUME 5

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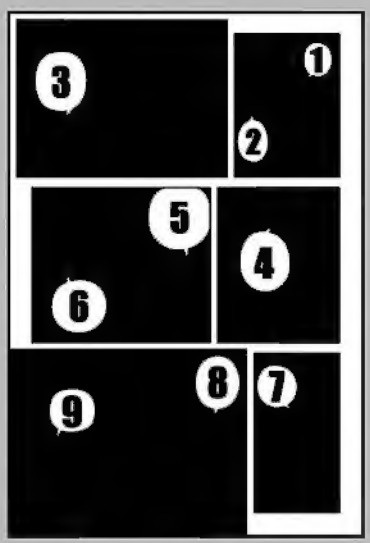
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



PIGTAILS OF DOOM

Once upon a time, Kenji met The Game Development Club and got his butt kicked by four strange girls. But even the formidable ladies of the Game Development Club have enemies that scare them: the superpowerful former student council. When the ex-council members kidnap Kenji and threaten to destroy the club, Kenji must figure out a way to save both the Game Development Club and whatever dignity he has left. The solution? A game, of course! Get ready for the gang's most intense challenge yet!

Rated: TEEN

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